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BARDIC PRINCE

Win Prince Charles's choice of Shakespeare"s greatest hits, **PAGE 9**

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THE TIMES

No. 65,415

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

'Last bastion of liberal establishment'

Judges meet over splits with ministers

By Frances Gibb and Richard Ford

AN UNPRECEDENTED rift has opened up between the Government and the judiciary over Michael Howard's plans to force judges to impose tougher sentences on hardened criminals.

Senior judges will discuss next week what action to take over the Home Secretary's party conference speech which prompted a furious and swift response from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth.

Whitehall officials have admitted privately that ministers are "gunning" for judges after a series of legal humiliations in the courts. At the same time, they feel judges are undermining their fight against crime by imposing soft sentences. One official said: "The judges are seen as the last bastion of the liberal establishment."

But the judges, in turn, are smarting from a series of attacks, renewed by MPs and ministers yesterday after Mr Justice Sedley's ruling on Wednesday that the Home Secretary's decision to ban the leader of the Moonies was "unlawful by reason of procedural unfairness".

Judges see repeated criticisms as part of a political campaign to undermine their independence and reputation. One High Court judge spoke of a "hate campaign ... to pour poison on the views of the judiciary".

Yesterday David Faber, Tory MP for Westbury, was cheered by Conservative backbenchers when he said: "Yesterday's extraordinary court decision is yet another, further example of the contempt with which some members of the judiciary seem to treat the views both of this House and of the general public."

Other judges criticised publicly, albeit in veiled terms, include Mr Justice Dyson and Mrs Justice Hale.

Yesterday Mr Howard voiced government concern on the BBC Radio 4 programme *Today*. "I think it is becoming increasingly more difficult to predict how the courts are going to react in what is clearly an expanding area of the law." He also said: "It is becoming quite difficult to predict with any accuracy how the judges are going to react."

Although his words were carefully chosen, the clear message was one of annoyance at the latest ruling against a ministerial decision.

Ann Widdecombe, the Minister for Prisons, echoed ministers' views at a conference on Wednesday, when she robustly defended Mr Howard's plans for tougher sentences, adding: "One of the objectives of the Home Secretary's new proposals on sentencing is to introduce greater certainty into the sentencing process, so that offenders know exactly what to expect if they continue offending."

Miss Widdecombe later appeared to rebuke the judges, including the Lord Chief Justice, saying: "I am quite worried about the pronouncements of some of the judges who appear to think that there is a *policy role to be adopted* by some of the judiciary."

Lord Taylor is due to meet other senior judges who make up the Judges' Council — the heads of High Court divisions — next week. Mr Howard's tougher sentencing plans, which the judges strongly oppose as fettering discretion, will be on the agenda.

The swift response of the country's most senior judge, within hours of Mr Howard's speech, was taken as an indication that Lord Taylor knew its content in advance, had made his views known, but had been ignored.

Ministers are angered both by the growing number of successful challenges to their actions through what is judicial review; as well as by judges pushing at the boundaries of judicial review itself and widening its scope.

One senior judge confirmed judicial review was expanding. He said: "Some argue that

Continued on page 2, col 1

MACKAY PLEA TO THE PUBLIC

The Lord Chancellor has appealed to the public to support his proposed divorce reforms, declaring: "I am convinced they are right."

He launched his battle to keep the Bill in the next legislative programme after being forced into retreat on another new law to protect women and children. His measures have been opposed by Tories who fear for the party's family image ...Page 2

Moon abandons visit, page 2

DEAN COX/AP

Handicapped children with a teacher wave with relief as they are driven away after being hijacked on their way to school. The hijacker was shot dead by police outside a Miami Beach restaurant. Police said he had a grudge against American tax authorities. Report, page 12

15,000 bad teachers 'should be sacked'

By David Charter
Education Correspondent

THE chief inspector of schools called yesterday for 15,000 "incompetent" teachers to be sacked to raise education standards.

Chris Woodhead said that it was time to stop making excuses for poor lessons and to get rid of those who were letting their pupils down.

Britain needed a "culture change" to get tough with classroom incompetence, he said. "It is only a minority of teachers, but nevertheless they have a disproportionate impact on children's learning — such teachers cannot continue as teachers."

But teaching unions criticised Mr Woodhead's school inspection agency, Ofsted, for judging teachers on a limited view of them in class.

Inspectors grade lessons on a scale from one for very good to five for very poor, and Ofsted said there could be nearly 15,000 teachers — 7,500 in secondary schools and 7,200 in primaries — on the bottom rung if the pattern of incompetence discovered at the 5,000 schools scrutinised since 1993 were repeated across all schools.

Mr Woodhead has often complained of the "stubborn one-third" of lessons that Ofsted has declared below standard and in comments to be broadcast on the BBC's *Panorama* on Monday, he said some 375,000 children were suffering. He said: "The impact of bad teaching is critically important. The future of our country depends on the quality of education that we are offering to our children. So we cannot be in the business of making excuses."

Woodhead: "It is time to stop making excuses"

Mr Woodhead's comments come days after a government "hit-squad" recommended the closure of Hackney Downs School in east London, effectively making 30 teachers redundant at a stroke. Ofsted has labelled more than 90 schools as failing, and more may be taken over and possibly closed.

His remarks angered teaching unions, however. Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the NASUWT, said: "I am very surprised by these figures. The Government told the Teachers' Pay Review Body there was no need to put any extra funding for teachers pay because the quality and quantity of the teaching force was fine."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, agreed that incompetent teachers should be forced out, but only after they had a chance to improve.

He said: "Mr Woodhead is extrapolating from snapshots of lessons observed over a limited period and making claims that cannot be supported by a proper appraisal. If a teacher is in difficulties, they should receive extra training and if that support has been provided, teachers who are still ineffective should be encouraged to leave. If that fails they should be asked to leave because there is no benefit from having an ineffective teacher in school."

Power deal heralds first super-utility

By Graham Searjeant

IAIN LANG, President of the Board of Trade, has cleared the way for the creation of Britain's first super-utility by ruling that North West Water's £1.8 billion takeover of the electricity supply company Norweb need not be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The decision was a snub to John Bridgeman, the Director General of Fair Trading, who wanted the merger vetted because he feared that a mixed utility could be harder to regulate, deter new competitors and breed inefficient management.

His advice was rejected by by Mr Lang, who said: "My main concern in considering whether to make references continues to be the maintenance of competition." Mr Lang's view was supported by both companies' watchdogs.

North West Water has agreed changes that give regulators greater control and has pledged not to cut off customers of one utility for not paying bills to the other.

Brian Staples, North West Water, chief executive, hailed United Utilities, the merged company's proposed name, as a new flagship for the region. Sir Desmond Pitcher, North West chairman, appears to have softened the initial hostility of the Labour Party.

United Utilities hopes to save up to £100 million a year. The shareholders will be the first to benefit, but the savings will then be passed on to customers over the first five years of the next century.

Shares in Norweb jumped 23p yesterday morning and ended the day 30p up at £11.85. North West Water is expected to gain control on Monday.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

MAGAZINE
The top 20 wines for under £3.50

WEEKEND MONEY
Housing, savings, tax and the Budget

1015
Win the best of Bond on video

CAR 95
What the well-dressed motorist wears

WEEKEND
Win a wine tour in South Africa

VISION
The seven-day TV and radio guide

£800m more for Shephard as Bottomley fights on

By Nicholas Wood and Jill Sherman

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY was last night fighting a rearguard action against a Treasury demand for a cut of £60 million in the £1 billion National Heritage budget after warning the Cabinet it could be seen as a way of exploiting the National Lottery to fund tax cuts.

Most departments, including the high spenders of health, education and social security, agreed terms with the Treasury yesterday as the Cabinet took an important step towards settling the roughest *Whitehall spending* round in years.

Gillian Shephard emerged as one of the big winners by securing an extra £800 million for schools. Mrs Bottomley dug in her heels at the two-hour Cabinet, rejecting the Treasury demand, which was backed by EDX, the Cabinet's spending committee. Last night, she had an emergency meeting with William Waldegrave, the Treasury Chief Secretary, and she may take her case back to the Cabinet on Monday.

The Heritage Secretary fears that the proposed £60 million cut — on top of £35 million taken out of her budget for next year — would leave the Government open to accusations that it is breaching the promise that National Lottery funds would be used *only to top up spending on the* arts, sport and heritage.

Before the meeting seven departments — National Heritage, the Foreign Office, Environment, Wales, Agriculture, Education and Scotland — were holding out for more money, but by last night their numbers had been considerably narrowed.

Besides Mrs Bottomley, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, was resisting an attempt to cut £400 million off the housing budget. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, was another winner, securing an extra £300 million for more operations and an extra 500 medical students.

The Treasury has been seeking an across-the-board cut of 5 per cent in areas not covered by manifesto pledges or ministerial commitments. Reduc*tions will mainly be achieved* by squeezing the £15 billion-a-year running costs of Whitehall departments and the £22 billion-a-year capital programme for new roads, schools, hospitals, and environmental and local authority projects.

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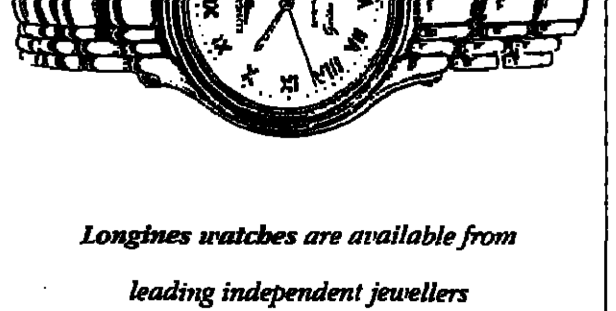

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Cash riddle as 'ex-spy' goes into the cold

By Andrew Pierce

A TOWN CLERK who went missing as £190,000 vanished from the council coffers *has left a trail* of clues to Moscow and a letter to his ex-wife saying "I cannot come back".

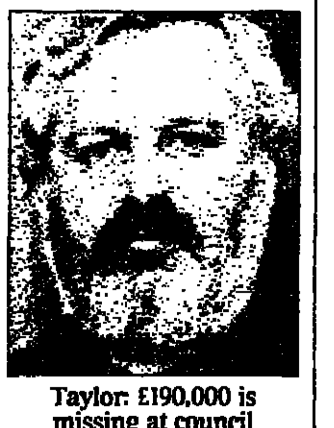
Gerry Taylor, 45, who said he was in naval intelligence with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, failed to return to his office at Whitworth Town Council, near Rochdale, Lancashire, on Monday after a two-week holiday. He had told colleagues that he was spending his break in Russia.

The town clerk and finance officer left the mysterious letter for his former wife, Beryl, with strict instructions that she should not open it until October 27. Unfortunately for the council, Mrs Taylor heeded his advice. Typed on a word processor, it said: "I will not be coming back. I cannot come back."

It also contained keys to the council's safes and security boxes, and indicated that he had left his car at the sea port in Hull. Mrs Taylor, who has two teenage sons, handed the letter to the police when they knocked at her door in Chadderton, near Oldham, on Tuesday. Detectives found the car, but they are convinced Mr Taylor is lying low in Britain and that the Russian holiday was part of an elaborate hoax.

Former colleagues of Mr Taylor, who regularly attended civic functions in full naval uniform, say that his favourite author is John Le Carré. He is fluent in

Continued on page 2, col 6



Taylor: £190,000 is missing at council

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Cool professional dodges strictures of a fiery preacher

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

"NO ONE," jeered Labour's Tony Banks (Newham NW) at John Major, "would accuse *you* of being a professional politician". The Prime Minister had been defending MPs' rights to privacy about earnings from parliamentary retainers. Mr Major had said it would be a pity if the House were stacked with nothing but professional politicians.

Banks raised a laugh but could hardly have been more wrong. Defending a decision which many believe Major privately regrets, the Prime Minister yesterday looked and sounded every inch the skilled and steady fixer. Whatever else he was, he was superbly professional.

The present mood is against him: but is there not something magnificent in the sight of a commander trapped on near-indefensible terrain, a few of his men visibly panicking, keeping his head and coolly rallying his troops with the calm air and level speech of a leader confident both of his authority and the justice of his cause? "Give me men," said Lord Melbourne once, "who will support me when I am wrong." Fate seems to have given the parliamentary Tory party such a man.

Major deserved a reward for *chutzpah*, at least, in the face of Tony Blair's lapel-clutching prose yesterday. The Labour leader might have done better to leave matters at his real question, precisely framed, which the PM skilfully ignored.

Mr Blair asked what could be the objection to an MP stating the truth about his income from parliamentary work. Major replied that we should not "impede" such MPs. Blair went on to overstate his case wildly. Treating the dispatch box as a makeshift pulpit is becoming his habit. Adjectives like "squalid" (one of Blair's favourites) and "rotten" ripped the air as he built up to his parboiled soundbite: "stain on his prime-ministership, swept from office . . ." etc. In the face of this, it was only necessary for Mr Major to seem unperturbed, which he did, for him to escape, which he did.

PM's Questions is a national institution and an opportunity for the face-pulling and competitive bawling which yield useful clues about mettle and morale (the Tories' has been oddly high all autumn, Labour's oddly patchy). But there are days when you long for someone to *listen to the answer*, and react to it.

To Blair's question (why not state what is earned?) Major's response (that MPs should not be "impeded" in their outside work) assumed an unstated premise: that public knowledge of MPs' fees would discourage MPs from taking them. Was that what the Prime Minister believed? It might have been interesting to hear Major's answer than to hear Blair repeat his opinion that the Government is squalid.

Interestingly, precisely the same unstated premise had lurked behind an afternoon's disputation on this subject in the Lords on the previous day. It was protested that peers' work is essentially voluntary and unpaid, therefore why should they be hindered from taking paid jobs by any requirement to state what Lord Weatherill described, with a shudder, as "the figures"?

But why would the need to disclose the figures hinder them from taking the job? Only if the public would disapprove! Throughout the debate in both Lords and Commons so far, parliamentarians have used the words "disclosure" and "discouragement" as though interchangeable. Why? Major was not asked why. All Labour did was rail at him, so he needed only to stay cool.

Mackay campaigns to save Divorce Bill from Tory wreckers

By Philip Webster, political editor

THE Lord Chancellor was fighting to keep his Divorce Law Reform Bill in the next legislative programme last night after being forced to retreat on new laws to protect women and children from violence in the home.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern assured Tory MPs that his proposals, under attack from some members of the Cabinet and viewed with suspicion by the party business managers, would not damage the Tories' family image.

In an unusual public appeal for his Bill, given the closeness of the Queen's Speech next Wednesday, he said in interviews last night that he hoped it would come forward as soon as possible, although he indicated that he would be prepared to accept amendments.

On *Channel 4 News* he said that he would put forward the proposals that had been contained in his White Paper: they had not been arrived at in a hurry and they had been subjected to wide consultation. However, like all other legislation, they would be open to amendment by anyone who wanted to find better ways of dealing with this "very central issue of our social fabric".

Although a decision on the future of the Divorce Bill will not be taken until Monday, it was clear that Lord Mackay has made considerable headway in his attempt to persuade ministers that it should be included in the programme.

Some Tories fear the reform will encourage marriage break-ups by creating "no fault" divorces. But MPs who met Lord Mackay last night were reported to have been impressed by his arguments that it could boost the family. They pointed out that he had emphasised the reforms would end "quickie" divorces. Although the proposals reduce the maximum waiting period from five years to one year, in effect no one will be able to get divorced in the first two years of marriage. An application for divorce could not take place until after a year of marriage and it would take a further 12 months to get the divorce through.

It was also argued that the mediation proposals, and those delaying divorces until after agreements had been reached about the custody and maintenance of children, were pro-family measures.

Peter Bottomley, MP for Eltham, who was at the meeting, said: "His proposals are ones which the Commons and Lords will want to consider . . . I expect the Bill to come to us."

A failure to bring forward the Divorce Bill would be a humiliation for Lord Mackay after his confirmation yesterday that the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill was being dropped.

Labour yesterday blamed Tory rightwingers for wrecking the Domestic Violence Bill, which would have extended to unmarried women legal safeguards against domestic violence currently restricted to wives.

Lord Mackay said in a written parliamentary reply that he had listened to concerns expressed about the Bill and was considering them. "The timetable is such, however, that it is now impossible to make further progress this session."

CHRIS HARRIS

Lord Mackay yesterday: will accept amendments

Judges meet over growing split with ministers

Continued from page 1

the test for judicial review, the test of reasonableness, is being diluted, as judges increasingly take account of other principles such as proportionality — whether the minister's decision was proportionate to what it was trying to achieve."

Ministers' annoyance has been fuelled by the European Court of Human Rights' rulings against the Government and there is now support from some MPs to end people's right to petition to Strasbourg.

At the root of the rift, according to one High Court judge, is ministers' lack of understanding of the courts' role in ensuring that ministers act within the laws. Judges had stepped in to fill a vacuum left by Parliament.

Labour politicians, too, are worried about judges overstepping the mark. Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, recently criticised Lord Woolf, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Sedley for comments that "smacked of judicial supremacism".

Public complaints about judges have also been encouraged by Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party Chairman, who openly invited people to criticise sentencing decisions with which they disagreed. One High Court judge observed: "There is a hate campaign coming through sections of the media, to pour poison on the views of judiciary. Ministers and MPs are very bothered about Nolan and Scott [who are chairing public inquiries] so they have launched a pre-emptive strike, suggesting judges are acting out of line."

Moon abandons visit, page 2

Mayhew announces further Ulster troop withdrawal

By Nicholas Watt
Ireland correspondent

THE Army in Northern Ireland is to return to its lowest level in ten years later this month after Sir Patrick Mayhew announced yesterday that 600 troops were to be withdrawn from the Province.

The troops, from 45 Commando, Royal Marines, who have been on a six-month tour of duty in Enniskillen, will return to base in Arbroath a month ahead of schedule. A unit of Royal Irish Regiment soldiers who were due to replace them will remain on standby in Catterick.

The latest troop withdrawal, the third big reduction in numbers since the IRA ceasefire in August last year, brings to 1,600 the number of troops pulled out in the past year. By the end of this month there will be about 16,750 military personnel left in the Province.

The Northern Ireland Secretary said yesterday that the reduction was a further step towards normality, underlining the Government's commitment to the peace process. "For the first time in many years, large parts of the Province are being patrolled by the RUC without direct Army support. This has been accompanied by other measures which have had the effect of reducing significantly the impact of the security situation on the people of Northern Ireland." Sinn Fein said the move illustrated the Government's slow response to the peace process.

Moon abandons his visit to Britain

By Richard Ford

THE leader of the Moonies yesterday abandoned his attempt to enter Britain to address 1,200 followers at a rally in London tomorrow.

Lawyers for the Rev Sun Myung Moon, leader of the Unification Church, announced that it was impractical to make representations at such short notice.

Mr Moon, 75, scheduled to arrive today, was banned because his presence was "not conducive to the public good". Mr Justice Sedley ruled on Wednesday that Michael Howard acted unlawfully because he had not given Mr Moon the chance of making representations.

David Coombs, solicitor for Mr Moon, said in a letter to Mr Howard: "It will not now be practicable for us to make representations . . . and have them properly considered by you in time."

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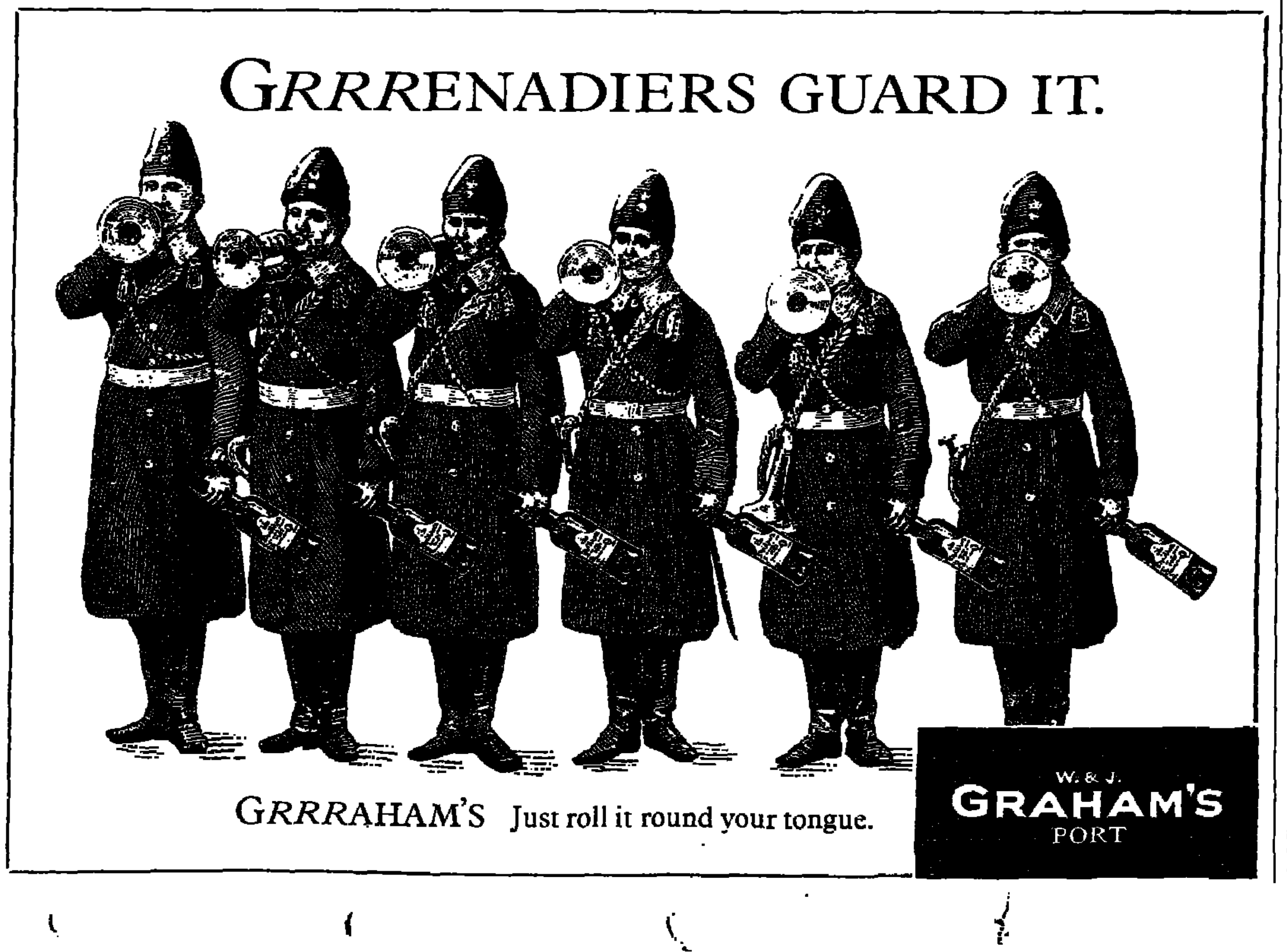
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Labour attacks Major's snub to Nolan

By Philip Webster

TONY BLAIR accused the Prime Minister of pandering to the "squalid monied interests" of the Conservative Party yesterday as fears grew among Tory MPs that they could lose their fight to maintain the confidentiality of their outside earnings.

The Labour leader launched a concerted Commons attack on John Major's decision to reject the conclusion of the Nolan committee that MPs should declare their pay from external sources, warning him that he would leave a stain on his prime ministership and the Government. With Tory MPs looking on uneasily, Mr Major hit back during the angry exchanges to accuse Mr Blair of delivering a "party political rant" to win short-term gain.

But with about eight Conservative MPs expected to vote for disclosure of earnings in Monday's debate on Nolan, there were deep misgivings among ministers last night that Mr Major had decided to associate himself so strongly with a cause that will end in defeat at worst and a messy victory at best.

One minister said last night: "He should have stayed out of it and let the House decide. That way he could have kept the mud off him." But others disagreed, saying that Mr Major had no choice but to come down in favour of secrecy because the substantial majority of Tory MPs back it.

Monday's vote has turned into one of the most important of this Parliament. While technically a free vote, both sides are exerting stronger discipline on their MPs to be present than at any time for months. The outcome will turn on the presence or otherwise of the minority parties, although there were signs last night that a substantial number of Tory MPs are contemplating abstention. If so the Government would be beaten.

Mr Major said the income MPs earned for outside activities approved by Parliament was "a matter between them and the Inland Revenue inspectors".

Mr Blair said that disclosure had been a key recommendation of Nolan. "If now, in weakness, the Prime Minister goes back on his word to implement the report he commissioned, it will leave a stain on his prime ministership and his Government that will not be removed until this rotten administration is swept from office."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, warned Mr Major in a letter that he risked damaging not just his own party, but respect for Parliament.

Professor Anthony King of Essex University, a member of the Nolan committee, said that if the Commons did not support disclosure, the public would be "deeply displeased".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Double X-ray detects more breast tumours

Routine screening for breast cancer could detect 25 per cent more tumours if two X-rays were taken rather than the usual one, doctors have found. More than a million women are screened for breast cancer each year and researchers estimate that more than 1,000 extra lives will be saved by taking two X-rays.

The NHS breast screening programme announced earlier this year that all screening centres would give women a second X-ray, after evidence of its benefits became known. The benefits have been confirmed by a study of more than 40,000 women at nine breast-screening centres, led by Professor Nicholas Wald of St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. The study, under the auspices of the UK Co-ordinating Committee on Cancer Research, is published in the *British Medical Journal*.

Nursery vouchers cost

A pilot scheme for nursery vouchers will cost £5 million to administer, enough to pay for the new places in the four chosen areas, it was disclosed yesterday. Robin Squire, the Schools Minister, said yesterday that he hoped the scheme would provide nursery places for 4,500 children in the London boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea, Wandsworth and Westminster; and Norfolk County Council.

£90,000 yacht damages

A businessman who bought a yacht with rotting foredecks after a faulty surveyor's report won £90,000 compensation at the High Court in London. Michael Offord, from Epsom, Surrey, claimed he paid too much for the £150,000 *Lady Anne* on the basis of a survey by Brian Goodfellow and Associates of Chertsey, Surrey. He hoped to sail the Mediterranean on his retirement.

Bugging controls likely

Police "dirty tricks" operations to plant bugs and secret cameras on suspects could be brought under legal control within a year, according to senior officers. Chief constables hope that legislation will be included in the Queen's Speech on Wednesday. Earlier this week Scotland Yard confirmed that it has a team involved in bugging the homes and businesses of some criminals.

Mother charged

A woman has been charged with the murder of her two sons aged eight and two. Tracey Rutherford, 25, from Ipswich, was charged with the murder of Benjamin and Samuel Slowley, whose bodies were discovered at their home on Wednesday morning. She will appear before Ipswich magistrates this morning. Yesterday, children who had played with the boys laid flowers outside their home.

Former rugby star dies

Alun Pask, the former Wales and British Lions rugby player, has died in a fire at his home. He was overcome by smoke when he attempted to use a garden hose to douse the flames at his bungalow in Blackwood, Gwent. His wife Marilyn escaped unhurt. The 58-year-old former No 8 captained Wales six times and won 26 caps during the Sixties.

Obituary, page 21

Antarctic race delayed

The British explorer preparing for a race to become the first person to walk solo across Antarctica has had his hopes of a head start wrecked by bad weather. Roger Mear had wanted to start his 100-day trek at 11.30 GMT yesterday, several days ahead of his rival, Norwegian Borge Ousland, but thick fog made it impossible for his plane to land at the planned starting point at Berkner Island.

Lawrence robes sold

A set of silk desert robes owned by Lawrence of Arabia sold yesterday for £13,225 at auction at Sotheby's, London. The robes, dating from about 1916, were one of two sets given to T. E. Lawrence's Army friend Arthur Russell almost 70 years ago with the suggestion that he pass them to his mother to turn them into a dress. One set was cut up but the other was saved, albeit minus one arm.

Dame Vera Dover plea

Dame Vera Lynn yesterday joined the campaign to prevent the port of Dover being sold to Calais. Dame Vera, who signed a petition along with the MP Glenda Jackson, said: "During the war the white cliffs were a symbol of hope, home, love and everything we were fighting for."

Police hunt for town clerk

Continued from page 1

Russian. The police were called in by council officials when he failed to return to work. They had received a telephone call from National Westminster Bank.

Eileen Kershaw, the council leader, said last night: "The call was a bombshell. The bank told us we had gone into the red. We were supposed to have thousands."

Mrs Kershaw, whose son Andy is a radio and television presenter, added: "Mr Taylor was always trying to create an aura of mystery and espionage. We are running checks to see whether he was ever in the navy.

"He has a lot of explaining to do. I don't think he came to terms with Labour winning the election. Or having me, a woman, God forbid, as leader. I had to have two separate meetings with him about his overbearing attitude."

The council entrusted all its finances to Mr Taylor, who boasted he was on one of the first ships to sail for the Falkland Islands in 1982. Cheques amounting to £96,000 have not been paid into the bank. Rossendale borough council is owed £86,000. The 7,000 residents of Whitworth face a supplementary rate as the council is insured for only £50,000.

As part of his £19,500-a-year duties, Mr Taylor collected the daily proceeds from the swimming pool and civic centre bar. They amounted to £1,000 a week. An audit showed very little has been paid into the bank since May.

Mr Taylor, who was hired five years ago, supplied his own service commendations for bravery as references for the job. He told the council he worked in computer security when he left the navy aged 35.

Christine Adamson, the mayor of Whitworth, said: "Wages for staff are the immediate problem. Some manual workers were due to be paid at the end of the week. Monthly staff are not due for payment yet.

"We will have to pay them from income from the swimming baths and the takings from the bar at the Civic Hall. We will ask Rossendale Council for help. But that looks doubtful. We do owe them £86,000."

Tom Aldred, the former town clerk, said: "He often talked about his special missions. I now just have this terrible nagging feeling."

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صورة من الاصل

'He is cunning, evil and beyond control'

Criminal mastermind, 14, mocks police force

By Paul Wilkinson

A SCHOOLBOY Fagin who runs two gangs has told police he plans to retire from crime at his next birthday because he can be locked up once he reaches 15.

In spite of pleas from his parents for the 14-year-old to be detained, police and the courts are powerless to stop him. Shopkeepers in Peterlee, Co Durham, want him banned from the town centre where his gangs have been blamed for 10 per cent of all crime.

The teenager, who is too young to be identified, has been responsible for 72 offences, including taking cars and theft. On his latest court appearance he admitted 20 burglaries. The only remedy open to the courts for a child of his age is local authority care, from which the boy simply absconds.

Yesterday a senior officer told how the boy uses his powerful personality to persuade people twice his age to commit crimes for him. Detective Inspector Tim Wilson said: "He has two gangs, his young cronies and older criminals. When they appear before the court they often get the rap because they have such a young boy with them but the court has it the wrong way round.

"He picks up the older men and drives them to the scene of the crime. Some of them are totally in awe of him. He has an aura of authority about him and he is the one in charge. I have never known a situation like it."

He is known to police as The Singing Defective because when arrested he answers questions by singing "No reply, no reply, no reply" to the tune of the soccer chant, "Here we go". Mr Wilson said: "Seasoned officers have to put up with him singing at the top of his voice when they are trying to ask him about serious crimes. We arrest him, charge him and recover stolen goods. But that's where our involvement ends. This youngster walks free every time. We cannot hold him at the moment and he knows it. It is something the criminal justice system is no longer catering for.

"He is an angel-faced cult figure among the more easily led juveniles in the town whom he often uses as his stooges, but make no mistake, he is cunning, evil and beyond control. He is undoubtedly the most persistent criminal we have ever had to deal with. He plays the game like an old professional and knows the criminal justice system backwards.

"He has told me numerous times that he is going to retire from crime when he reaches his fifteenth birthday because he knows then that we can lock him up. That day can't come quickly enough for me.

"He has a callous disregard for his victims. He has burgled the home of one 72-year-old pensioner three times and all the evidence suggests he is getting worse. If one of his elderly victims corners him there is a possibility he could cause serious injury or even worse."

The pensioner he has robbed three times is on the verge of moving out to escape him. Mr Wilson said: "She needs an oxygen mask to help with her breathing but she is still fair game to him. He has completely wrecked her life."

Although the boy is still three years too young to take a driving test, he has already bought and abandoned three cars with the proceeds of his crime. His latest one, a £300 Metro, bought by an older accomplice, was abandoned after a police chase.

His father, an unemployed miner aged 38, said: "We've tried everything we can to keep him out of trouble and now he needs to be locked up in a secure unit because he's totally out of control.

"We've hidden his clothes, taken his shoes and even nailed the windows down. The police can't help us, social workers say they can't help us and until the system is changed my son will go on offending because he knows he can get off scot free.

"Social workers tell me he's not a good case for locking up in a secure unit. We've asked them what can we do but the answers we get will never change our son's habits. Often he's away for days on end and we don't know what he's up to.

"He stopped going to school a year ago, he refused to attend classes. I even sat with him for a week to force him to stay in lessons but the minute I stopped he started bunking off again." He is enrolled at a special school near by in Brandon, but rarely attends.

His mother, aged 36, said: "He used to be such a lovely kid but now he's one of the best-known criminals in the area. Most of the family have disowned him."

His grandmother said: "Every time his parents threaten to wallop him he says he'll call the social workers and report them for abuse. He's got them living in total fear."

In a local radio interview the boy was asked how he would feel if his own grandparents were robbed. In a reedy voice he said: "It wouldn't bother me. They don't get on with me anyway. They speak to me and that but they don't like me. I would probably get the blame from them anyway."

During the 15-minute interview the boy said he was not bothered about going to jail. "It's just like a holiday camp," he said. "You just lie in your cell all day smoking dope."

INTERVIEW WITH A TEARAWAY

The boy was found by Clare Westhead, 22, a local radio interviewer, making cannabis joints with friends outside a town centre supermarket. While being driven to the radio station, he claimed that he had once been chased by police the wrong direction on the A19 dual carriageway. He also said: "When you take car radios, it is best to take a batch and then sell them all together. Get a Peugeot, they are really hard to get into, but I still can. Or get a Robin Reliant." On air, he was less forthcoming.

Question: Have you committed 72 crimes?
Answer: Don't know. Could have done
Q: Do you break into old people's homes.
A: No.
Q: Tell me about driving the wrong way up the A19.
A: Nothing to tell.
Q: Are you proud of what you do?
A: No.
Q: What do you think will happen if you carry on like this?
A: *I will go to jail or something but I am not bothered.*
Q: How do you fill your days?
A: I just walk around in the town centre.
Q: And your nights?
A: In a different kind of way.
Q: Illegal?
A: If that's what you want to call it, you can call it that.
Q: Do you think breaking and entering should be made legal?
A: No. Dunno. Aye it should be (laughing).
Q: Would you like to stay in Peterlee?
A: Aye it's cush here. Peterlee is sorted, it's mad because you can do what you want.
Q: What about the crimes?
A: I have done some of the burglaries, but not all the ones the police say.
Q: What do you think of the police.
A: The police are radgies [idiots].
Q: If there were jobs, would you get one to get some cash?
A: Probably. There's no jobs, not even a future for anyone in Peterlee.
Q: Have you anything else exciting top tell me?
A: No.
Q: Do you take drugs?
A: I don't take them, just smoke them.

JOHN SCULPHER

Estelle Feller was the top-performing insurance underwriter at her office

Masked intruder drove career woman to suicide

By Andrew Pierce

A BRILLIANT insurance underwriter was driven to suicide by a masked intruder who broke into her mother's home, an inquest was told yesterday. Estelle Feller, 28, never recovered from the shock of coming face to face with the intruder, dressed all in black two years ago.

She developed an obsessive fear that the raider, who was not found, was following her. She never slept alone in her flat again, gave up her job, and in April was committed to a psychiatric hospital suffering from manic depression.

She was discharged on April 27. Her body was discovered by her mother, Elizabeth Feller, in her fume-filled car on July 14.

The inquest was told that before the break-in Miss Feller was the top-performing underwriter at Confederation Life in Plymouth.

In June 1992 she was prescribed Prozac, an anti-depressant, after she and her fiancé split up and her parents' marriage collapsed. But Mrs Feller, who owns a nursing home, told the inquest in Newton Abbot, Devon, that her daughter made a rapid recovery from that depression.

After the break-in in November 1993, Mrs Feller said, "her life was completely distorted by fear".

Mrs Feller, of Newton Abbot, complained that her daughter might have lived had she received more follow-up medical care and not had a large cut in her dose of anti-depressant. She is considering legal action against South Devon Healthcare Trust.

Verdict: suicide.

Teenager killed woman who fled the Nazis

By A Staff Reporter

A BOY aged 14 who killed an elderly refugee from the Nazis was sentenced to five years in youth custody yesterday.

The boy and his cousin, also 14, mugged Eva Scheiber, a frail 83-year-old, for £15 which they spent on cannabis. Mrs Scheiber was stalked by the pair, who cannot be named, from a London Underground station. The Old Bailey heard that the boy's cousin, a girl, told him when they saw Mrs Scheiber, who was on her way to visit friends for Sunday lunch: "There's an easy one."

A Hungarian Jewish refugee, Mrs Scheiber fled to Britain in the 1930s to escape persecution. Her parents and two brothers stayed in Hungary, and in 1944, when the Nazis entered the country, her mother, father and brother were sent to a concentration camp.

On the day of the attack, Mrs Scheiber, a widow, had set out from her home in Maida Vale, northwest London, taking sweets for her friends' children. According to the boy, his cousin had identified Mrs Scheiber as a target. He said: "Her handbag was over her shoulder. We followed her until we got to a place where no one would see. I wished I had never done it."

Mrs Scheiber's handbag was snatched after she reached the first flight of stairs in a tower block. She lost her balance and fell downstairs. She died two weeks later.

The court heard from a schoolfriend that the pair had shown off the stolen cash, but had begun crying as they recalled Mrs Scheiber's fall down the stairs. A group of children confronted the cousins after seeing an ambulance, suspecting them of the crime.

The boy later admitted manslaughter and robbery. His cousin, who admitted theft, was made the subject of a two-year supervision order. Judge Laughland said: "I do hope you are deeply ashamed. This was disgraceful behaviour. It led to awful consequences." After reading reports of their backgrounds, he said the youths were social casualties.

Work-experience pupil stitched hospital patient

By Paul Wilkinson

A TEENAGE schoolboy on work experience at a hospital twice stitched up wounds in a woman's leg after he was shown the technique by a doctor. Officials are holding an inquiry into the incidents in the casualty unit of Bradford Royal Infirmary.

The 17-year-old A-level pupil inserted two stitches in the patient's leg under supervision of a doctor last month and a week later put in three more, unsupervised. Although the patient had not complained and the treatment was apparently satisfactory, Malcolm Poad, the general surgical manager of Bradford Hospitals NHS Trust, said yesterday: "This shouldn't have been allowed to happen.

"Under no circumstances should A-level students on work experience be involved in the treatment of patients. We feel we have let down ourselves and the patient."

Mr Poad said they were "isolated incidents with no danger to the patient". The stitching had been done by a "mature and competent" student who hoped to go to medical school.

The senior housing officer supervising the boy on October 20 let him stitch the patient's leg, with her approval, after showing him how to suture. "He allowed this because of the student's maturity and his competence, but he shouldn't have done it." Mr Poad said.

A week later the woman, thought to be from Halifax, returned for treatment to a separate wound. "The lad offered to do some suturing. The male nurse asked if he was trained to do it, believing he was a trainee on the department. He said 'Yes' and the patient said that he had treated her the week before."

Officials apologised to the woman yesterday and explained what had happened. Staff will be interviewed next week and a decision taken on disciplinary action. Work experience has been suspended pending a review.

Lesley Sterling-Baxter, the chief officer of Bradford Community Health Council, said that she was appalled. "Whoever has allowed this to happen has breached their professional terms of service. Someone has made a gross error of judgment."

Marathon man was too good to be true

By Kathryn Knight

A MAN who came seventh in the Dublin Marathon is to hand back his medal after admitting that he ran only three miles.

William Rowe, 36, slipped in unnoticed among the thousands of exhausted runners at Phoenix Park after they had completed 23 miles and hurried with them towards the finish in O'Connell Street, cheered by crowds of spectators.

Officials' suspicions were raised by an unknown from County Kilkenny clocking the time of two hours and 25 minutes. They also discovered that many of the front runners did not remember seeing him earlier in the course.

Confronted with video evidence from a camera that scanned runners along the route, Mr Rowe agreed to hand back the medal. He faces being banned from similar events.

Yesterday he said: "I wanted to join in the excitement. I love running. I realise it was a mistake. I ran so hard over the three miles that I felt dizzy afterwards and had to sit down."

British television wins favour again in Emmy nominations

From Quentin Letts
in New York

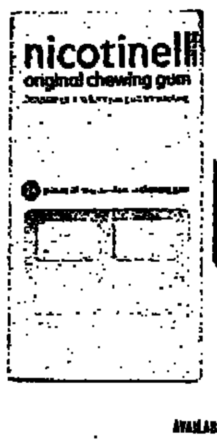
BRITISH television programmes have collected most of the nominations for this year's Emmy Awards. Ten of the 19 nominations have gone to British productions, ensuring a strong London presence at the ceremony in New York later this month.

The nominations include John Schlesinger's version of *Cold Comfort Farm* and Jon Blair's film about Anne Frank.

The Emmys are awarded to international film-makers by America's National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The ceremony is to be introduced by Sir Peter Ustinov. John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, will receive an award in recognition of his contribution to broadcasting.

It is the second successive year that British programmes have found favour with the academy's nomination judges. Last year five BBC shows, including *Absolutely Fabulous*, won awards.

British nominations —
☐ Drama: *Cold Comfort Farm* — BBC/Thames co-production: *The Politician's Wife* — Producers Productions for Channel 4.
☐ Documentary: *Anne Frank Remembered* — Jon Blair Film Company, in association with the BBC and the Disney Channel; *The Dead (Twenty-Five Bloody Years)* — BBC; *Igor, Child of Chernobyl* — Zenith North for Carlton
☐ Arts Documentary: *Bookmark: Sex, Lies and Jerzy Kosinski* — BBC; *A Short Film About Loving* — WDR (Germany) and Channel 4.
☐ Popular Arts: *Don't Forget Your Toothbrush* — Ginger Productions for Channel 4.
☐ Children and Young People: *Little Lord Fauntleroy* — BBC: *Wise Up* — Carlton UK Productions for Channel 4.



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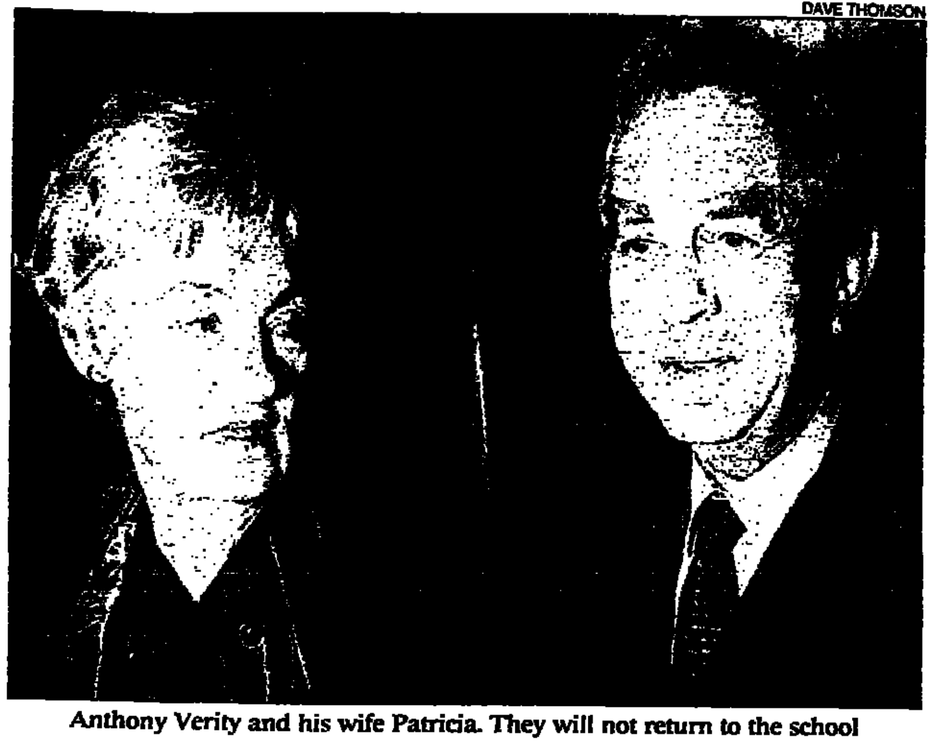
Master of Dulwich College resigns

By David Charter


DAVE THOMSON

Anthony Verity and his wife Patricia. They will not return to the school

ANTHONY VERITY, Master of Dulwich College, resigned from his post yesterday after governors of the southeast London independent school accused him of an "inappropriate relationship" with his secretary.

Mr Verity, 56, was cleared by the board two weeks ago of sexually harassing Anne Ridley, his secretary of four years, on a school business trip to Thailand. But they concluded he "allowed an inappropriate relationship to develop" with Mrs Ridley, 38, and agreed an undisclosed early retirement deal with him.

Mr Verity declined to comment last night, although governors said he disputed their view. His wife Patricia told *The Times* that she would resign immediately from her post as a French teacher at the school, where annual fees are £12,270. She has been on leave since her husband was suspended in August. Mrs Ridley has also left the college by mutual agreement.

Mr Verity's settlement could amount to £500,000 on the basis that he could have continued at the college for a further four years. In a written statement Sir Colin Cole, the chairman of governors, said: "This has been a stressful and unhappy time for the college and all concerned. The governors' sole objective throughout has been to protect and sustain the fine reputation of Dulwich College." He added: "Mr Verity has made a very considerable contribution to the life and success of the college over the last nine years for which the governors and parents are very grateful. We wish him well."

The governors' statement said allegations of sexual harassment made by Mrs Ridley could not be sustained. "They did, however, come to the view that Mr Verity permitted an inappropriate relationship to develop and that this affected the performance of his duties. Mr Verity strongly disputes this view.

"However, in the circumstances both parties accept that it is in the best interests of the college that he should take early retirement."

Land of middle-aged squares lures 21m tourists

Come to Britain for beer, canals and grey skies

By Harvey Elliott, travel correspondent

FRENCH tourists come to Britain seeking eccentrics and cosy pubs, the Japanese want cream teas in the Cotswolds and Norwegians are drawn irresistibly by our canals.

The most detailed survey of what makes Britain an international tourist attraction reveals a wide variety of reasons. The Spanish like eating out late, especially our desserts and cakes. Hong Kong visitors, who "can be quite loud in groups", are looking for bargains. Israelis are "mad about the theatre".

Perhaps most oddly of all, Americans are impressed by our public transport, including British Rail. But not everyone is complimentary. The Japanese also regard the average Briton as "50-year-old beef-eating squares who are obsessed with politics and sticklers for punctuality".

Koreans have only a "hazy, indistinct image" of Britain and the Taiwanese would much prefer to go to Italy, France or Austria. The survey, conducted round the world by the British Tourist Authority, will be used to increase further the record 21 million tourists who came last year and spent more than £10 billion by ensuring that the demands of each nation are met.

Britain has climbed above Austria into fifth place in the world tourism league. The leaders are America, France, Spain and Italy.

But the tourist authority's chief executive, Anthony Sell, said yesterday: "At the present growth rates of our major competitors, Britain will, if nothing else changes, slip back to eighth position as we enter the 21st century."

Adele Biss, the authority's chairwoman, said when launching it annual report yesterday that lack of public funds could hinder tapping the lucrative Far Eastern market. "We ought to establish a stronger presence in new markets such as Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia, where international travel is growing at three times the world average.

Biss: afraid Far Eastern market won't be tapped

"Clearly this has a funding implication and we shall have to wait and see whether the public spending round later this month recognises this important opportunity."

Among visitors who are already attracted to Britain, those from Belgium and Luxembourg want "green" tourism and are keen on short breaks. Canadians, mainly older couples, are obsessed with "money, health and travel" and want to visit friends and relations.

Germany, Austria and Switzerland are turning their backs on Mediterranean beach holidays because of fears of skin cancer and are now "sun-shunners" anxious to "stretch their intellects" through culture and the countryside.

The Greeks come for medical care. Indians and Pakistanis want to watch cricket. The Irish come for the all-weather sporting facilities and Latin Americans for the fashion.

Finns and Swedes want to play golf and drink beer in pubs.

Turkey and most Arab nations like to go shopping and the average Middle Eastern visitor spends £1,400 per trip, three times the average.

Coroner warns against suspicion over duke's death

By Lin Jenkins

THE Duke of Northumberland suffered from complex medical problems but none of his doctors expected them to cause his sudden death, a coroner said yesterday.

A post-mortem examination failed to find any obvious natural cause of death for the 11th duke and further tests are to be carried out. Dr John Burton, Coroner for west London, said he did not want anyone to think that implied there were suspicious circumstances surrounding the death.

The duke's medical condition had been such that it was inevitable his life could not have been the same as that of most people, the coroner said.

The inquest into the death of Henry Alan Walter Richard Percy was opened at Fulham Coroner's Court yesterday.

It was told that the duke was found in nightclothes in his bed at Syon House, his London home, at 10am on Tuesday. Michael Walsh, Coroner's Officer, said that nobody had seen him earlier that day. The body was formally identified by Margerie Meakes, the duke's personal assistant and secretary.

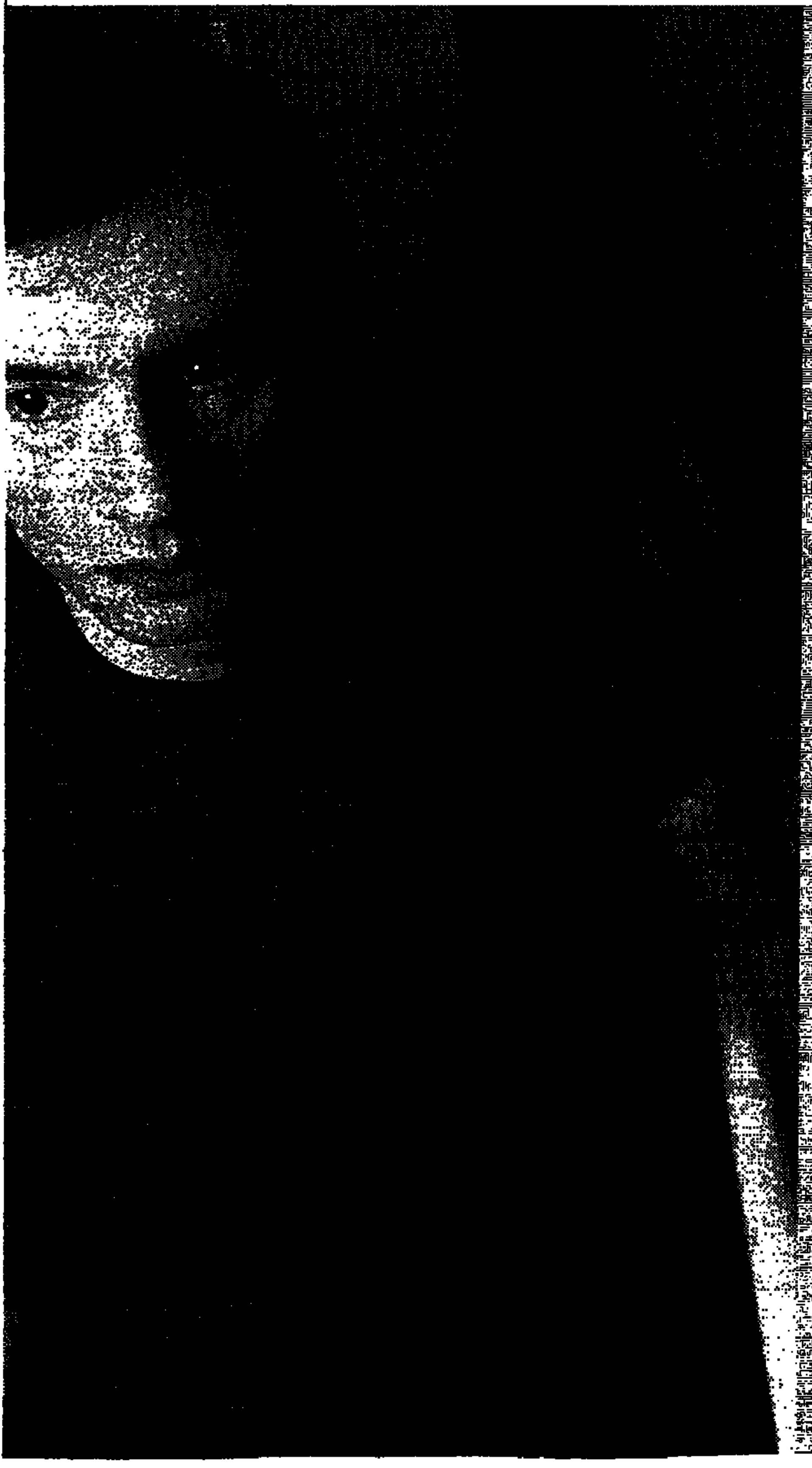
Neither his London doctor nor the one who treated him when he was at Alnwick Castle, the family estate in Northumberland, was able to issue a death certificate as they had not seen him recently.

Mr Walsh said that there was an involved medical background. "The diagnosis that he was suffering from ME (myalgic encephalomyelitis) was made in April this year but it goes back a great deal further."

The duke, he said, also suffered from depression. Dr Burton added that he took sleeping pills and suffered from sleep apnoea, a condition where the sufferer stops breathing briefly.

Mr Walsh agreed that the post-mortem examination conducted by Dr Richard Shepherd, a Home Office pathologist, had been expected to find a cause of death immediately. "Dr Shepherd could not find any obvious natural cause during that examination and is doing further tests on blood samples and so on," he said.

Dr Burton, adjourning the inquest for a month, said: "A number of doctors had been providing treatment but none of them expected a sudden death." The coroner released the body for burial. None of the duke's family attended the short hearing.



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Of course, you may still believe that you and your family don't need the protection of a SafeGuard plan. That accidents always happen to someone else. If you do, bear in mind that last year 1.6 million workers needed more than six months off work due to long-term injury or illness, and that Norwich Union Healthcare paid out over £16 million in income protection claims. That's rather a lot of someone elses. If you would like further information, call free on **0800 400 123.**

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Tougher strains of bacteria overpower antibiotic drugs

By Nigel Hawkes

DRUGS are losing their power to defeat disease in many European countries, a conference in The Hague was told yesterday.

A three-year study shows that a range of bacteria have developed resistance to antibiotics. The degree of resistance varies greatly from country to country, depending on prescribing practice.

The Alexander Project examined bacteria responsible for common chest infections in 15 centres — five in America and two each in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. The project, financed by the drug company SmithKline Beecham, is named after Alexander the Great, who is believed to have died of a respiratory infection.

Five bacterial pathogens were tested against 15 antibiotics. For *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, one of the commonest causes of pneumonia, the proportion of infections resistant to penicillin has risen across Europe on average from 24 per cent in 1992 to 30 per cent in 1994. There are wide variations: in France, resistance rose from 18.9 per cent in 1992 to 49.6 per cent in 1994, while in Britain it remained at 10 per cent. For *Moraxella catarrhalis*, another common cause of respiratory disease, evidence of antibiotic resistance has been confirmed throughout Europe, with some centres in Germany and Spain reporting it in every bacterial sample studied.

Professor Javier Garau of Barcelona said: "The problem of drug resistance is especially grave in Spain. This may be due to the fact that for many years antibiotics were available over the counter."

Other reasons for the rapid spread of antibiotic resistance are inappropriate prescribing by doctors, the type of antibiotic used and how often the patient takes the drug. Dr William Craig, Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin and co-chairman of the conference, said: "Research data derived from animals questions the bacterial efficiency of current trends towards using antibiotics at wide intervals. This may result in the selection of more resistant strains taking place."

The Public Health Laboratory Service said that in Britain the growth of antibiotic resistance was causing some concern but that the trends were not as bad as in some other countries. The service had recently established a surveillance unit to study hospital-acquired infections.

Screen-test for GPs' prescription guide

A system of prescribing medicines by computer is to be tested in doctors' surgeries. The service, called Prodigy, will provide on-screen advice to GPs on the different drugs they can give patients. The Health Department hopes the system, described as a best practice guide, will improve efficiency and cut costs. A similar scheme was found to be a valuable aid to doctors in The Netherlands. Gerald Malone, Health Minister, emphasised that the system would not override doctors' freedom to prescribe as they see fit. "Prodigy supports this freedom, it does not replace it," he said yesterday. "It will offer peer-reviewed advice on treatments at the point of consultation. If we decide to make the system available nationally its use will be at the discretion of the GP." The trial will run until the end of next April in more than 120 practices in England.

ANDREW SHAW

Ted Newbery, who "acted dangerously" in firing at an allotment intruder

Pensioner who shot thief loses appeal over damages

By Tim Jones

A PENSIONER who blasted a burglar with a shotgun while defending his allotment shed lost his appeal yesterday against a ruling that he must pay damages to the intruder.

Three judges at the Court of Appeal in London said Ted Newbery, 83, had displayed unreasonable conduct that was "clearly dangerous and bordered on the reckless" when he fired the 12-bore shotgun from inside his shed through a hole in the door seven years ago. Lord Justice Millett said: "Violence may be returned with necessary violence but the force used must not exceed the limits of what is reasonable in the circumstances."

The blast hit Mark Revill, 29, from a range of about five feet, and shot passed through his upper arm, the armpit and into his chest. Mr Newbery, from Ilkeston, Derbyshire, fired on him after he had become so incensed and frightened by thefts and vandalism that he had taken to sleeping in the brick-built shed on his allotment 100 yards from his council house.

He was charged with wounding but acquitted. Mr Revill, who later pleaded guilty to various offences that night, sued Mr Newbery for compensation and won damages of £12,100, cut to £4,033 since he was held two thirds to blame.

Angela Knight, who is Mr Newbery's MP, said she did not think justice had been done and would be taking the case up with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

☐ A bus driver who lost his job after he chased a schoolboy who had allegedly vandalised his vehicle is not to be reinstated, an industrial tribunal has ruled. John Nugent, of Linwood, Strathclyde, was sacked for gross misconduct after the boy's mother complained that her son had been assaulted.

Face of West haunts victims who survived, court is told

By Richard Duce and Bill Frost

THE face of Frederick West came back to haunt women he had tormented many years before bodies were found buried at his home, his widow's trial was told yesterday.

One witness, Janette Clarke, told Winchester Crown Court that she was 16 in 1966 when an unknown man stalked her in his car and tried to abduct her. Then in 1994 she had just made a cup of tea and was watching the television news at home when a photograph of West was shown.

"I just screamed and dropped the mugs. I'll never forget his face," she said.

She said that the man had followed her in his car as she walked home from a bus stop in Gloucester. She ran home after the man stopped, opened the car door and asked her for the time. She believed he ran after her.

Police kept watch the next night, but nothing happened. The night after, the man reappeared. Mrs Clarke said: "I don't know where he came from. The car seemed to pull in front of me. I just froze. I couldn't move. I couldn't scream." She saw her sister 200 yards away, who came down to bang on the car and told the man to go away.

Mrs Clarke was called as a witness by the defence in the case of West's wife Rosemary, 41, who denies ten charges of murder. The prosecution does not dispute that West attacked women on his own, but says that with his wife he later went on to kill the women and girls, including their own 16-year-old daughter Heather.

Another witness told in a statement that she was stalked by West as she cycled home in 1972 at the age of 16. Caroline Langman remembered a blue A40 van waiting outside the school. In the following weeks, the van would be parked further along her route.

Finally she saw the van parked in a secluded area close to her home. She telephoned her parents from a nearby house. Later she received an obscene telephone call. When she saw a photograph of West after the Cromwell Street discoveries "I went very cold — the face was very similar to the man who followed me."

Another woman, known only as Mrs C, told how she accepted a lift while hitch-hiking in 1966 to Cheltenham. The man, whom she now believed to be West, made a detour to nearby Bishop's Cleeve, grabbed her by the throat to prevent her leaving, and masturbated. He then drove her to Cheltenham.

Another woman, Theresa Davies, described in a written statement how she was hitch-hiking near Tewkesbury in the summer of 1975, when she was 24. A 'stockily built' driver she now believed to be West drove her down a country lane and stopped. "He lunged at me. Then he punched me in the abdomen. Somehow I struggled free."

West was also seen in his car on a number of occasions with a 15-year-old Gloucester waitress who subsequently vanished without trace in January 1968, the court was told.

In a written statement, Vincent Oakes told how he had recognised Mary Bastholm, a close neighbour, sitting in a car with a man half a dozen times during the autumn of 1967.

"It was Frederick West I saw with Mary all those years ago. I'm 99 per cent sure it was him," he said.

The trial continues.

West: witnesses said they recognised him

Technique helps deeds of the Father to become flesh

MEDICAL BRIEFING

By Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A ROMAN CATHOLIC priest living in a village in Tuscany has discovered that disease can be almost as effective as the surgeon's scissors in sterilising a man.

Traditional Catholics might think that if any man has to suffer obstruction of the vas deferens, so that sperm can no longer be ejaculated, a priest is the ideal candidate. However, this priest has formed a "very stable relationship" with his housekeeper who is disappointed not to become pregnant.

Priest and partner have visited Severino Antinori's clinic in Rome to take advantage of his expertise in fertility and research into pregnancies in postmenopausal women. Dr Antinori's investigations have shown that the priest's tubes are blocked. Next month Dr Antinori will try to extract sperm either from the epidydimis, the tubes lying up against the testes, or from the testes themselves and use it to impregnate the housekeeper.

Even if Dr Antinori is successful in obtaining sperm, successful *in vitro* fertilisation (IVF) may not be possible: 80 per cent of patients who have an obstructed vas deferens have antibodies in their blood which reduce the vitality of sperm.

William Hendry of the London Clinic and St Bartholomew's Hospital in central London, an authority on surgery of the vas deferens, said that after successful microsurgical reconstruction of the tubes, about 50 per cent of his patients could expect to become pregnant within two years.

Mr Hendry found that the easiest reconstructive operations were those that were necessary either because the patient had had a vasectomy, or because their tubes had been blocked by infection, usually non-specific urethritis or gonorrhoea.

When a patient's vas deferens were blocked as a result of chronic or respiratory infections in childhood — Young's syndrome — it was a more difficult problem and, when a patient suffered from congenital absence of the vas, reconstructive surgery was nearly always impossible.

The current smart operation is designed to take sperm from the epidydimis, a technique known as microscopic epidydimal sperm aspiration, or from the testes themselves.

A single sperm is then selected to fertilise an egg by a technique known as infracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). John Pryor of the Lister Hospital in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and the Middlesex Hospital, central London, is achieving a 33 per cent pregnancy rate.

The Roman Catholic Church will therefore have a 66 per cent chance of not having to tolerate the father's fatherhood.

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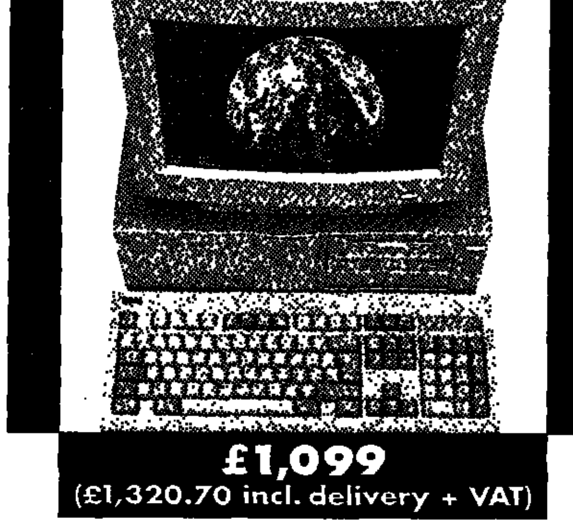

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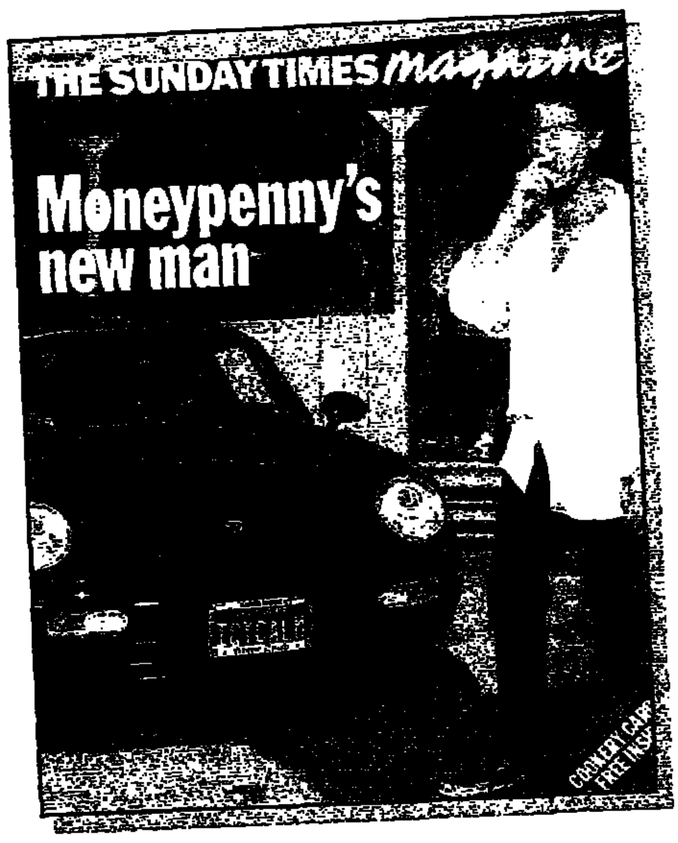

FOR YOUR EYES ONLY – THE NEW BOND

Can James Bond, the supreme sexist hero, operate as a 1990s New Man? The latest movie, Goldeneye, opens this month with a new actor as 007. On Sunday, the **Magazine** pierces Brosnan's icy calm

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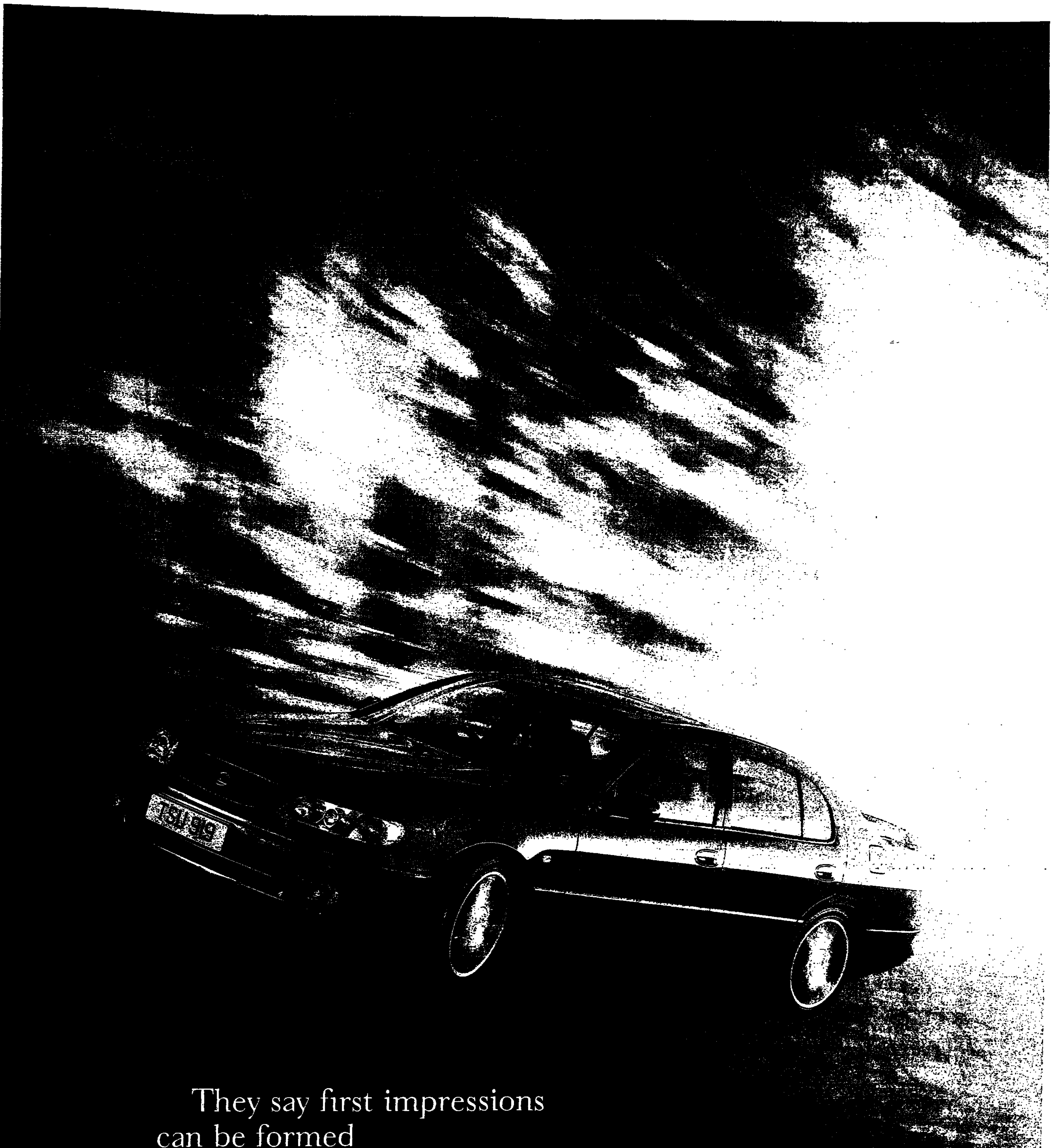

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Portillo's advisers clash over value of American fighter

By Michael Evans
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL PORTILLO is under pressure to reject a proposal to lease American F16s to replace ageing Tornado aircraft after senior Ministry of Defence officials said it would cost about £1 billion over ten years.

The Defence Secretary is examining two options to provide the RAF with an effective air defence aircraft until the four-nation Eurofighter combat aircraft, which will also have an air defence capability, comes into service in squadron form in 2005. The existing Tornado F3 air defence aircraft needs an extensive upgrade if it is to continue in service, at a cost of between £115 million and £120 million.

Mr Portillo has been urged by his special advisers outside the MoD to lease F16s instead. However, figures produced by senior officials at the MoD indicate that leasing F16s would be more expensive, even though the American aircraft is acknowledged to be highly capable and versatile — far better in aerial combat than the present Tornado.

Officials have said that it would be necessary to develop a new infra-structure for the F16, including different refuelling tankers, spare parts, ground staff, training facilities and simulation equipment.

The F16: cheap to run

The F3: cheaper at first

According to defence sources, the bill for leasing F16s for ten years and developing the necessary support services would cost at least £1 billion. It has also become clear that the version on offer for leasing, F16ABs, would not meet the RAF's requirements, which include air-to-air refuelling capability.

The defence sources said this would mean leasing the more capable F16CDs. If none was available, the Americans would have to upgrade a number of F16ABs.

Although upgrading Tornado F3s would be cheaper initially, those supporting the F16 option have pointed out that the American aircraft is much cheaper to run than the Tornado. It is also being suggested that if F16s were leased, they could be kept on for longer than ten years, not as a rival to Eurofighter, but as an extra asset. As one defence source said: "In a conflict such as Bosnia, it would be far better to send F16s to do the air defence role rather than send the RAF's most expensive aircraft [the Eurofighter, each costing £57 million at 1994 prices], with a risk of it being shot down by a stray missile."

However, other advisers to Mr Portillo are understood to have given warning that the ministry cannot afford to spend £1 billion on leasing American aircraft.

If Mr Portillo takes the advice of the majority of his senior officials, British Aerospace will be asked to update the Tornado F3 by fitting it with two new air-to-air missile systems, Asraam and Amraam — advanced missiles with short-range and medium-range capability.

British Aerospace sources said it might be necessary also to improve the radar, but there would be no need to carry out any other modifications. One source said: "The important thing will be the fitting of new missiles which will make the Tornado six times more capable than the existing aircraft."

The Asraam system, which is being developed by British Aerospace with the American Hughes Aircraft Company, will be available in 1998. The missile is expected to have 20 per cent more thrust than the Sidewinder system.

Cabinet cost-cutters allow Services time to regroup

By Michael Evans

THE defence budget appears to have emerged relatively unscathed from the Cabinet's latest public spending allocations, after government pledges to give the Armed Forces a period of stability.

However, there are still economies, redundancies and depot closures to come in the final phase of the Frontline First cuts in support services, announced last year. Michael Portillo has also promised to maintain the momentum for cuts through efficiency measures that could lead to further reductions. The Frontline First programme, the name given to the Ministry of Defence's Defence Costs Study, was carried out after the Treasury demanded cuts of £750 million in the Budget.

Mr Portillo, who was Chief Secretary to the Treasury when Frontline First was inaugurated, said: "The view I took at the Treasury was that if we could persuade the MoD — as we did — to conduct an in-depth study of its costs, that would result in two things: more ability to buy kit that the Forces wanted and a period of stability. That remains my view."

The Defence Secretary promised the Armed Forces that there would be "no Frontline First 2". He said: "There's no prospect of any further review of that sort."

Mr Portillo praised the MoD for "applying itself so thoroughly to eliminating waste and reviewing its practices".

But he added: "I will not in any way release the pressure on the MoD to maintain the search for efficiencies."

SIMON WALKER

The Duchess of Kent, patron of the Samaritans and a former volunteer, inaugurates the charity's national line yesterday. It can be phoned for the price of a local call

Helpline offers instant aid to the depressed

By Kathryn Knight

PEOPLE calling the Samaritans should no longer have to wait for help after the charity opened a telephone line yesterday for use throughout the country at the cost of a local call.

Many people have in the past tried to contact Samaritan volunteers at one of 200 branches for help — only to get the engaged tone. From now on they will be able to ring 0345-909090, and the new system will allow calls to be diverted from the busiest branches to any of the other offices. Calls to the Samaritans have increased by 29 per cent in the past ten years.

The initiative was announced by the Duchess of Kent, a former Samaritan and now patron of the charity, and the Rev Chad Varah, who founded it in a central London church with one telephone 42 years ago.

The Duchess said: "This way I hope desperate people can pick up the phone and speak to someone immediately. In the past, getting the engaged tone meant that some callers did not call back." She hoped that eventually calls to the line would be free. "I consider this another emergency service. I hope the number will become as familiar as 999."

☐ Conditions experienced by a baby in the womb and in infancy may influence mood throughout life, doctors say.

Researchers led by Professor David Barker, of the University of Southampton, studied the weights at birth and at one year of 15,000 children born 60 to 80 years ago in Hertfordshire: 43 people committed suicide at an average age of 51. They had similar birth weights to the rest of the group but were about a pound lighter after 12 months.

The study, in the *British Medical Journal*, cites evidence that hormonal disturbances underlie depression. "Patterns of hormone release by the hypothalamus [a gland] are known to be programmed *in utero*."

Finger of fate traps a mugger

A woman made sure that police would be able to trace the mugger who put his hand over her mouth to silence her in a park. She bit off the end of one of his fingers. Leon Gunning, 21, of Cheetham, Manchester, was found seeking treatment in hospital. Yesterday he was jailed for three years by Manchester Crown Court for assaulting Jobquir Nahir, also 21, of Oldham, with intent to steal her gold necklace. His fingertip could not be sewn back.

Jewellery raid

Ports and airports were put on alert for two thieves who robbed a shop of antique jewellery worth £500,000. The thieves, with foreign accents, bound and gagged staff at the shop in Bond Street, London, and pistol-whipped one man.

Yates hearing

A bankruptcy petition against Paula Yates, estranged wife of the rock singer Bob Geldof, was dismissed. Miss Yates, 36, did not attend the hearing at the High Court's Bankruptcy Division. The petition was filed by the Inland Revenue.

Airmen killed

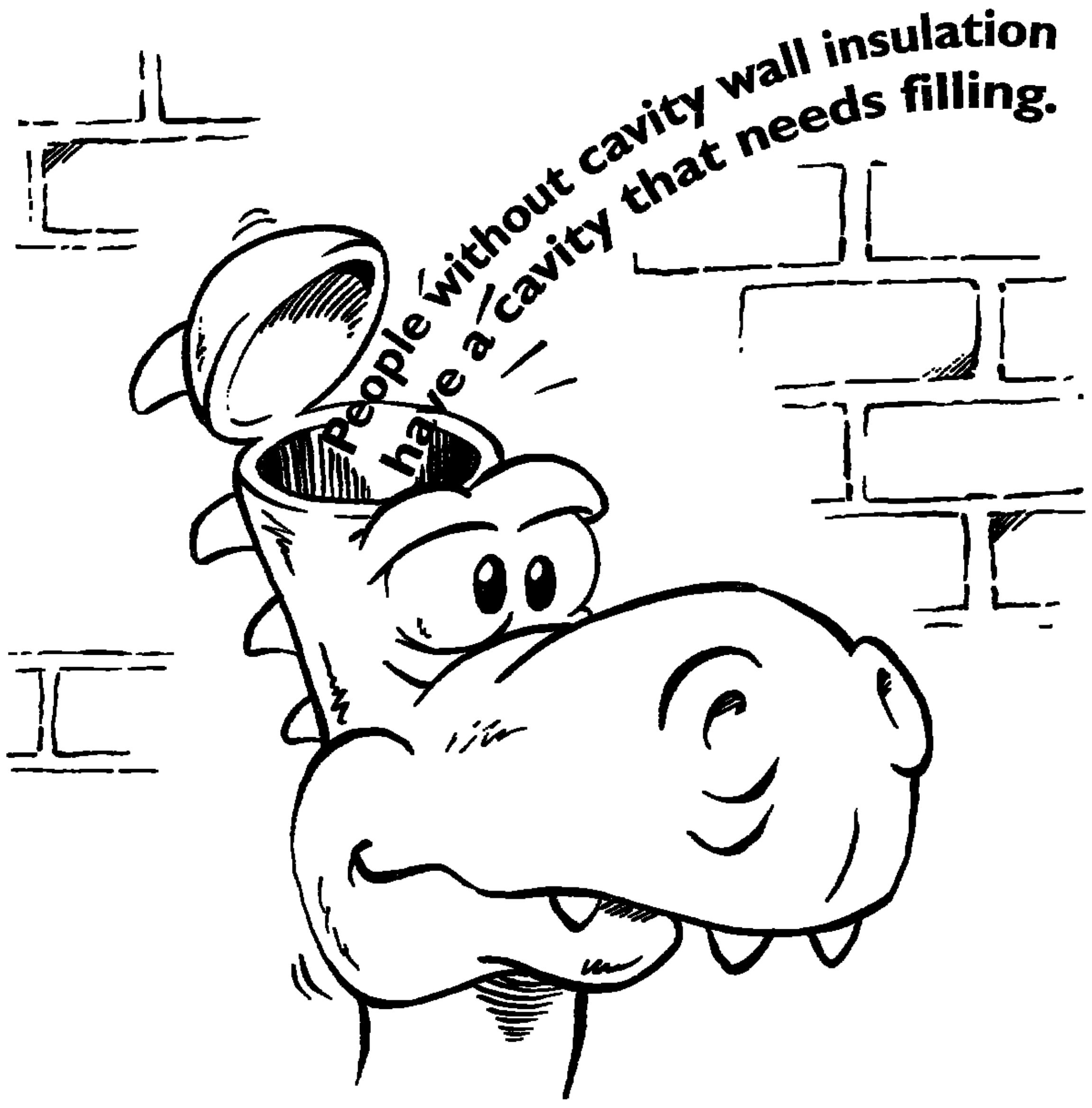
Two RAF men were killed in a road crash in Bahrain. Howard Pritchard, 24, from RAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, and Colin McDonald, 32, from RAF Leeming, North Yorkshire, were serving with the UN in Saudi Arabia.

In the frame

A driver who was caught speeding by the same camera five times in two days was fined £360 yesterday. Jane Mann, 38, from Teignmouth, Devon, was allowed to keep her licence despite being given 18 penalty points.

Smooth operator

The last British silk-weaving company using 150-year-old hand looms has won an order for a former imperial palace at St Petersburg. Humphries Weaving of Castle Hedingham, Essex, will supply hangings for state bedrooms.



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Guest star challenges for place in Christmas album charts as chairman of the Bard

Prince presents the greatest hits of Shakespeare

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales launched his challenge to Sir Cliff Richard and the late Freddie Mercury yesterday for a place in the Christmas record charts.

Playing Prince Hal, his distant predecessor as king-in-waiting, he joins a cast of distinguished actors in reading a selection of his favourite passages from Shakespeare, collected on a set of cassettes and in an accompanying book under the title *The Prince's Choice*.

Shops greeted the publication with enthusiasm. Dillons immediately offered a £3 discount on the book's £12.99 cover price. Hatchards of Piccadilly had it on display in both their royal and literature departments.

"We will sell many more from the royal counter; I expect the book and cassettes to be one of this season's terrific stocking-fillers," said Roger Katz, general manager.

The Prince, president of the Royal Shakespeare Company, was in Stratford-upon-Avon yesterday to attend its annual general meeting. He takes his duties seriously, and has campaigned vigorously on the national bard's behalf, particularly to have him read more widely in schools. In his introduction to the book, the Prince quotes Cole Porter's humorous recommendation to "brush up your Shakespeare", but confesses that grinding through *Julius Caesar* at Gordonstoun left him largely unmoved. His own enthusiasm was fired nearly 20 years later when he discovered, and identified with, *Henry V*.

> *"Brush up your Shakespeare*
> *Start quoting him now.*
> *Brush up your Shakespeare*
> *And the women you will wow."*
>
> **— Cole Porter**

He has seen Kenneth Branagh's film version at least three times. "I found myself wondering in amazement at Shakespeare's insight into the mind of someone born into this kind of position," the Prince writes. "Some find it a rather jingoistic play, glorifying war. Certainly there are great speeches of resolute action. But each time I have seen or read the play, it has been the humanity of the King that has moved me most." Among the *Henry V* excerpts are these thoughts on the weight of kingship: "We must bear all. O hard condition, twin-born with greatness: subject to the breath of every fool, whose sense no more can feel but his own wringing. What infinite heartsease must kings neglect that private men enjoy?"

The Prince says that "it is not just about the innermost concerns of kings. It is about the loneliness of high office, the responsibilities and stresses which afflict all those who shoulder great burdens, run industries or schools — or perhaps nurse invalid relatives.

"Shakespeare holds up the mirror to Nature for us to see ourselves and to experience ourselves, so that we gain in the process a more profound understanding of ourselves and others, appreciating right and wrong, and the laws of emotion and nature which make us behave as we do."

He is, he says, "one of those who believe that man's mind is more than a mere mechanical object functioning in a mechanical world."

Royal watchers and amateur psychologists will strain to detect some clues to the Prince's innermost character in his choice. There is Prince Hal preparing for kingship, Macbeth and Brutus grieving in their different ways over the loss of a wife, Iago's treachery towards Othello, and the dark reflections on Time the Destroyer in Sonnet 60.

Among distinguished names on the recording, Sir John Gielgud gives John of Gaunt's "This England", Glenda Jackson returns to her pre-political roots as Cleopatra, Anthony Sher is Macbeth, Dame Maggie Smith Volumnia in *Coriolanus*, Richard Briers Malvolio and Alan Bates Duke Senior.

The choice of passages was a joint effort by the Prince, the acrot Sir Robert Stephens and Eric Anderson, who was the Prince's English master at Gordonstoun.

Glenda Jackson said yesterday: "I think that what is important to remember with something like *The Prince's Choice* is that the Songs From The Shows, as it were, are not the show itself, but at least with the spoken word the listener's imagination is unleashed."

Leading article, page 19

Inspiration: Kenneth Branagh starring as *Henry V*
The Prince has seen the film at least three times

JILL FURMANOVSKY

The Prince listening to his Shakespeare selection. Sir Robert Stephens and the Prince's former English master helped to make the choice

Royal performer urged to look back in anger

BY ALAN HAMILTON

Stephens: role opposite the Prince as Falstaff

THE Prince of Wales showed a natural talent for acting but had difficulty expressing enough anger in the role of Hal when he dismissed Falstaff, Glyn Dearman, director of the recording, said yesterday.

The Prince enacted the scene from *Henry IV, Part I*, at a recording session at his home at Highgrove last month. Sir Robert Stephens played Falstaff and Toby Stephens, his son, was Poins. In the scene the future King Henry V realises that high office demands he sever his friendship with his long-standing and hedonistic partner in drink and devilry.

Mr Dearman said: "The problem was he came across as such a nice guy. When he berates Falstaff, it was getting him to be angry enough. I said, 'What do you do, sir, when you are angry?' There was a long pause, and he said, 'Right.' I have not the faintest idea what was going on in his mind, but he certainly seemed to enjoy it."

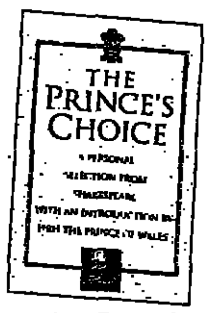
The Prince finally managed to inject the hint of a sneer into his demolition of Sir John, having caught him out in a false boast: "These lies are like their father that begets them — gross as a mountain, open, palpable. Why, thou clay-brained guts, thou knotty-pated fool, thou whoreson obscene greasy tallow-catch."

Mr Dearman added: "I can only guess what Prince Charles gets out of reading or seeing Shakespeare, but I'd suggest he loves the language and shares something of the philosophy. At one point when we were working on the scene I said to the Prince that he was the only person in the world who knew what a line of Prince Hal's actually meant. In a way, Prince Charles is giving a performance every day of his life, and to an extent one had to penetrate all that in order to get him to play Prince Hal."

Those involved in the recordings are braced for criticism that mere highlights are no substitute for a full diet of complete play. Glenda Jackson said yesterday: "I think that what is important to remember with something like *The Prince's Choice* is that the Songs From The Shows, as it were, are not the show itself, but at least with the spoken word the listener's imagination is unleashed."

Mr Dearman described the Prince's selection of favourite passages as the Shakespearean equivalent of Classic FM. "Having those nuggets might cause people to turn around and take a different look at Shakespeare, whose very name can be an instant turn-off for some."

20 Prince's Choice books and CDs to be won



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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY HRH THE PRINCE OF WALES

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In which year was Shakespeare born?

The book, Prince Charles's personal selection from Shakespeare, is published by Hodder & Stoughton, in hardback price £12.99. A number of famous actors and actresses feature on the two CDs giving voice to his choices. The CD set, also published by Hodder, will retail for £19.99. All the royalties from the sale of the book and CDs will go to The Prince of Wales's Charities Trust.

Send your answer on a postcard to: *The Times*/Prince's Choice, 5 Britton's Court, London EC88 6NG, to arrive no later than Friday, November 10, 1995. The first 20 correct entries chosen at random after the closing date will win a copy of the book and CD. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

Copies may be ordered from Bookpoint Services: 01235 831700

Supermarkets thrust bananas into the front line of price war

BANANAS are falling in price as they become the focus of intense cost-cutting by rival supermarkets. A pound of the fruit now costs as little as 15p, having fallen from 45p in the past two weeks (Leyla Linton writes).

A spokeswoman for Safeway said bananas were being used to entice customers as part of the heavy discounting war between the main chains. "For the last two weeks the price of bananas has kept on going down. Whether it goes down any more depends on our competitors."

Bananas are the second most popular fruit after apples and stores report customers are buying several pounds at a time. "You could say we are virtually giving them away," said one supermarket fruit buyer. Announced promotions include:

WEEKEND SHOPPING

Asda: bone-in lamb leg £4.38 kg, McVities Louisiana Lemon Pie £1.59, baking potatoes 89p for 2.5 kg.

Budgens: rump steak £7.40 kg, New Covent Garden Fresh Winter Tomato Soup 99p for 568ml, Napoleon black grapes 59p lb, Budgens cheese and mushroom quiche 99p.

Co-op: Uncle Ben's medium chilli con carne sauce 89p for 475g, reduced calorie coleslaw 39p for 250g, Co-op mandarins in juice 45p for 411g, hot oats cereal 79p for 500g.

Harrods: French camembert salami £2.35 for 100g, Le Perche Salami ring £2.15 for 100g, Cantal (Salers) cheese £13.19 kg.

Iceland: chicken thin and crispy 12in pizza £1.99, Southern fried croquettes 99p for 907g, Birds Eye fish cuisine italiano bake £1.49 for 400g, McVities Mississippi Mud Pie £2.29.

Marks & Spencer: butter basted chicken breast £3.29 for 567g, two whole cod £1.69 for 255g, treacle tart 99p for 300g, Brussels sprouts 69p lb.

Morrisons: chicken Kiev twin pack £1.49, fresh vegetable bake 99p for 300g, Maltesers 99p for 146g, crispbread 29p for 250g.

Safeway: salmon en croute £2.49 for 400g, tortelloni and cheese salad 65p a quarter lb, apple turnovers 23p each, chicken and vegetable pies 94p for 568g.

Sainsbury: pork boneless loin £5.55 kg, West Country cheddar £4.37 kg, blackberry and apple crumble £1.25 for 400g, sultana scones 69p for eight.

Somerfield: red apples 29p lb, mixed salad 74p for 180g, Marina marinated rollmop herrings 99p for 240g, sultanas 49p for 500g.

Tesco: sirloin steak £9.64 kg, broccoli 49p lb, fruited teacakes 59p for six, Melton Mowbray buffet pork pies £1.59 for six.

Waitrose: whole Chinook salmon £2.69 lb, Waitrose fruit fools 4x114g £1.39, Belgian chocolates £4.85 for 230g.

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From the 14th December the above will be made available to the British traveller when we inaugurate the first ever flight series to San Jose, the lovely capital of Costa Rica. Since the country is small and diverse, most places of interest can be visited in the course of one day; these include the Pacific or Caribbean coasts, the Turtle channels, the national parks, volcanoes, coffee plantations, orchid farms, botanical gardens, lakes or San Jose with its lovely squares, theatres and museums.

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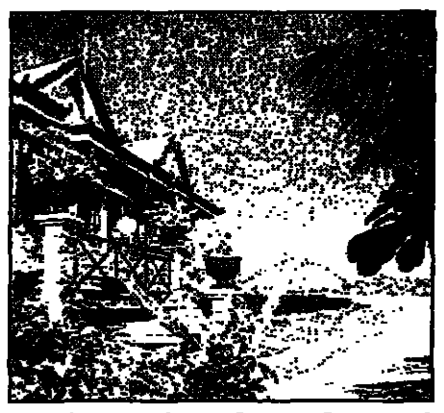

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MPs 'replacing facts with propaganda'

Euro-official opens campaign against 'anti-Brussels lies'

BY JAMES LANDALE AND MICHAEL BINYON

THE most senior European Commission official in Britain accused MPs yesterday of distorting the truth about Brussels for party political ends.

Geoffrey Martin, the commission's head of representation in Britain, said that ministers and other MPs were spreading anti-European propaganda and using Brussels as a "political plaything".

Martin: Europe is used as political plaything

Commission officials are usually banned from criticising their host countries and the forthright nature of the attack heralds a campaign by the Brussels executive to repair its negative image in Britain. Yesterday they made clear their intention to ensure that no attack on Brussels is left unanswered and no Euro-myth unexplained.

Although Mr Martin was careful to level his remarks at all parties, they will be seen as a thinly veiled attack on Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, and other Eurosceptic members of the Cabinet who used their party conference speeches to criticise Brussels.

"Europe is now being used as a political plaything by increasing numbers of politicians at a national level," Mr Martin told the Association of District Councils in Torquay. "Real issues are being distorted because of party political considerations. Truth has been displaced by distortion. Anti-European propaganda has taken place of fact.

"Over the years, since Britain joined Europe, national parties, without exception, have been guilty on occasion of using Europe for their own ends. Europe has been used and abused in Parliament as well, irrespective of which party has been in power."

Mr Martin also attacked the press for its coverage of the European Union. "The Community is reviled and ridiculed in the pages of the frivolous and not-so-frivolous press where readers are fed on an almost daily diet of what is now widely recognised as Euro-mythology," he said.

"It is indeed difficult for ordinary men and women to grasp the reality of Europe today without being forced to wade through a diet of bent bananas, apparently bureaucratic impositions from Brussels and seriously misleading editorial comment." It was little wonder that the public felt alienated from what it perceived to be a separate, interfering bureaucracy.

Mr Martin's attack came as Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, moved to reassure pro-European Tories that Britain's links with Europe are not threatened by a recent government shift towards a stronger transatlantic alliance.

In a speech to the UK Atlantic Council, Mr Rifkind emphasised that an invigorated transatlantic partnership could benefit Europe as much as Britain. His remarks were in stark contrast to the more sceptical approach in recent speeches by him and other ministers.

"It is often assumed that there is a conflict between our European and Atlantic interests, that Britain must choose where its destiny lies," he said. "It is an assumption that I completely reject. In advocating a strengthened transatlantic indentity, I must emphasise that this will not be at the expense of our participation in the European Union. Both are vital to our national interests."

He rejected, however, any separate European defence identity that weakened Nato. After a call for a European army by the German politician Wolfgang Schäuble, Mr Rifkind criticised "theological models that let rhetoric race ahead of reality". When Britain took over the presidency of the Western European Union (WEU), it would pursue a practical approach "to build European defence structures that work."

He added: "To put defence co-operation under European Union auspices would involve subordinating one treaty-based organisation to another — with different membership." It would create "significant practical problems", given the presence of the EU's four neutral members — Austria, Finland, Ireland and Sweden. And it would exclude associate members of the WEU, such as Turkey and Norway, from a say in decisions that could directly affect their interests. "I see no merit in that approach."

Tories ponder hard choice

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WAVERING Tory MPs face an agonising weekend trying to decide whether to provoke their colleagues' anger by voting on Monday to disclose outside earnings.

Although backbench Tories remain solidly against disclosure, several say they will reflect hard, away from the febrile atmosphere of Westminster. The list of Tories supporting disclosure ran into double figures yesterday, enough to reject the Government line, assuming there is a full turn-out.

Among those suggesting publicly that they will back disclosure were Stephen Day (Cheadle), Sir Julian Critchley (Aldershot) and Peter Griffiths (Portsmouth North).

They joined those who declared on Wednesday their intention to defy the government line, including John Biffen (Shropshire N), Hugh Dykes (Harrow E), David Martin (Portsmouth S), Richard Shepherd (Aldridge Brownhills), Sir Teddy Taylor (Southen E) and David Wilshire (Spelthorne).

The views of constituents will weigh heavily on the minds of some MPs as they prepare for Monday's vote. Labour have threatened to publicise MPs who oppose disclosure, especially those who have many outside business interests.

The threat is enough to strike fear even into those who have no outside earnings. One MP with a majority of fewer than 7,000 said: "I have no financial interests to disclose. Looking at it purely selfishly, why should I protect everyone else's business while my constituents throw me out in anger?"

As John Major made it clear that he expected MPs to vote down Labour's call for disclosure, Tory business managers were becoming aware that backbench support for the Government line was ebbing away.

MPs decry 10-minute speech limit

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

BACKBENCH MPs complained vociferously about the reform of Commons procedures yesterday, saying that they had substantially reduced their power.

MPs on both sides of the House said that a new ten-minute limit for backbench speeches on contentious issues was dangerous. They also complained about debates now ending at 10pm on most nights and about the new Wednesday morning debates, but a majority voted for the changes, which have been in place for a year in an effort to improve working hours that are unpredictable and unsocial.

Tony Newton, Leader of the House, said that the trial was considered to have been successful. Although only nine out of 131 sittings this year had gone beyond midnight, backbenchers had gained eight hours of debating time.

Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House, agreed with him, but emphasised that this year had been untypical because of a dearth of controversial legislation. She said there was room for more reform of procedures and told worried MPs: "I don't think the losses in terms of backbenchers' rights are significant."

But Tam Dalyell (Lab, Linlithgow) said: "It is the considered view of some of us that had Michael Foot and the late Jack Mendelson been confined to 10-minute speeches, this country almost certainly would have sent troops to Vietnam.

"In the sixties, it was Michael Foot and Jack Mendelson, and others, who persuaded the Commons against what might have been the wishes of the then Prime Minister, Harold Wilson. In 10-minute speeches, neither they nor anyone else would have had a chance."

Booth: former aide

Booth loses fight for Finchley

BY JAMES LANDALE

HARTLEY BOOTH, the Tory MP who resigned last year as a ministerial aide over his relationship with a former Commons research assistant, has lost a battle for the new seat of Finchley and Golders Green in north London.

Mr Booth, who replaced Margaret Thatcher as MP for Finchley in 1992, will have to search for a new seat after local Tories chose John Marshall, his neighbouring MP for Hendon South. The MPs' seats were merged by the Boundary Commission.

Mr Booth was considered the favourite because more of his old constituency is in the new one. Mr Marshall, however, was elected at a meeting of more than 1,000 association members on Wednesday night.

Election experts predict a Tory majority of about 12,000 in the new constituency if the electorate votes as it did in 1992.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to agriculture ministers and the Prime Minister. Debates on parliamentary procedure; government response to the Nolan report. In the Lords: Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Regulations; and the Northern Ireland (Remission of Sentences) Bill, all stages.

TODAY in the Commons: debate on fundholding in a primary-care-led NHS. In the Lords: Road Traffic (N Ireland) Order; Police (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order; Financial Provisions (Northern Ireland) Order; primary school funding.

Embattled MP to retire

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A TORY MP accused of spending too little time in his constituency has decided not to fight a reselection battle. Robert Banks, Harrogate and Knaresborough MP for 21 years, will step down at the next general election.

Mr Banks, 58, found his position had become untenable after a special meeting of his constituency party two weeks ago in which members voted to open the candidacy selection to newcomers.

The MP, a former Lloyds name and a Royal Naval Reserve lieutenant-commander, was criticised over his low profile in the constituency and also for his failure to fulfil a promise to move into the area, made on his first selection in 1974. His main family home is a 26-acre estate outside Sudbury, in Suffolk.

A group of Tory members were also concerned that the self-effacing, urbane style of their MP was not the one needed to defend what boundary changes have turned from a safe Tory seat to a potential Liberal Democrat gain.

Mr Banks denied neglecting his constituency duties, claiming that the campaign to oust him was political skullduggery. In a letter to the Conservative association chairman he said he wished to return to business and do many of the things that he and his wife had been prevented from doing by parliamentary life. "I am pround of my achievements in Parliament and you will understand that a great deal of an MP's work does not always hit the headlines."

Several prominent Tories are said to be interested in the seat, including the former Chancellor Norman Lamont.

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Israelis survive bomb attacks by suicide avengers

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A NEW outbreak of tit-for-tat Middle East violence exploded yesterday when sucide bombers, avenging last week's Mossad assassination of the leader of Islamic Jihad, detonated two car bombs near Jewish targets in the Gaza Strip, wounding 11 Israelis and killing both attackers.

The double attack came less than 24 hours after mourners at the Damascus funeral of Fathi Shqaqi, 43, vowed bloody revenge for his murder last week by Mossad assasins in Malta as he was travelling under an assumed name between Libya and his headquarters in Syria.

Shallah: promised to avenge Shqaqi's death

Islamic sources said that Ramadan Abdallah Shallah, the new, British-educated leader of Islamic Jihad, had ordered a campaign of retaliation against Jewish targets inside Israel and abroad. Israeli officials believe that more attacks may follow in the coming days, especially as only the suicide bombers died in yesterday's missions.

The Government has made clear that a new wave of suicide attacks from areas controlled by the Palestine Liberation Organisation could delay the planned Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank in time for Palestinian elections there planned for January 20. Marwan Kanafani, the chief PLO spokesman, blamed Israel for the renewed violence, claiming that the Shqaqi assassination by two Mossad agents on a motorcycle had sparked "the escalation in the situation".

Witnesses said that it was only a miracle that prevented much more Jewish blood being shed because the first suicide bomb was aimed at a bus carrying Jewish nannies to a settlement inside the largely PLO-controlled Gaza Strip, where 4,000 Jews remain in a handful of heavily guarded settlements. Five women on the bus and three soldiers were among the 11 injured in the blast.

The second blast was about half a mile away, near the main settlement block at Gush Katif. An Israeli bus had been waiting there to be escorted to Israel, but when the army commander heard the first explosion, he ordered it back inside the settlement. A suicide bomber drove up, but could not get close enough and blew himself up 50 yards from his target.

There has been no official claim of Mossad responsibility for the Shqaqi murder and Cabinet embarrassment was caused when Ephraim Sneh, the Health Minister, came close to proclaiming Israel's involvement and then tried to withdraw his remarks. "When he was alive," he told *The Washington Post*, "they struck us, and as long as they have operative capabilities they will try to continue. We did not ignite something by punishing him."

According to the newspaper, Mr Sneh then claimed that he had been speaking hypothetically and asked to retract "what I said about punishing him".

Israeli security officers examine the wreckage of one of the cars used in yesterday's attacks by Palestinian suicide bombers

Paris raid nets 'bomb ringleader'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

POLICE have arrested ten suspected Islamic terrorists and seized bomb-making equipment and weapons during synchronised raids in three French cities.

The operation foiled what the Government said was an imminent bomb attack on a street market in the northern city of Lille. In Paris, police arrested Boualem Bensaid, 27, an Algerian and a suspected ringleader of the Armed Islamic Group, which claims responsibility for recent terrorist attacks in France.

Mr Bensaid, also known as Mehdi, was on the point of giving orders for the Lille bombing when he was arrested, according to a statement by Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister.

Police also mounted dawn raids yesterday in Lyons and Lille. At the home of one of the three men detained in Lille police say they uncovered a bomb-making factory.

☐ **Youth riot:** Youths rampaged on the outskirts of the French city of Laval after a policeman shot to death a Moroccan man who had grabbed an officer's gun, police said. *(Reuter)*

Restaurant flop leaves bitter taste

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

AFTER less than five months, the first kosher restaurant in the Arab world has switched to Lebanese food and left its Arab and Israeli partners at each other's throats.

The fate of the Istanbul Restaurant, opened in Amman on June 1 as a symbol of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel in October 1994, provided a reminder of the pitfalls of trying to blend the two cultures. The Middle East Economic Summit in Amman this week was marked by hopes of many future business ventures.

However, Khalid Muhammad Ali surveyed the empty tables of his restaurant near the Israeli Embassy last night and said: "The Israelis did not come, and now that I have changed to Arab cooking the Arabs do not come because I have the reputation of being a friend of Israel. My Israeli partners deserted me when they saw that the business was not doing well."

Pinchas Sela, one of the Israeli partners, denied the accusations and said that Mr Ali "used to complain that there was no business, but when we visited we found no food in the fridge".

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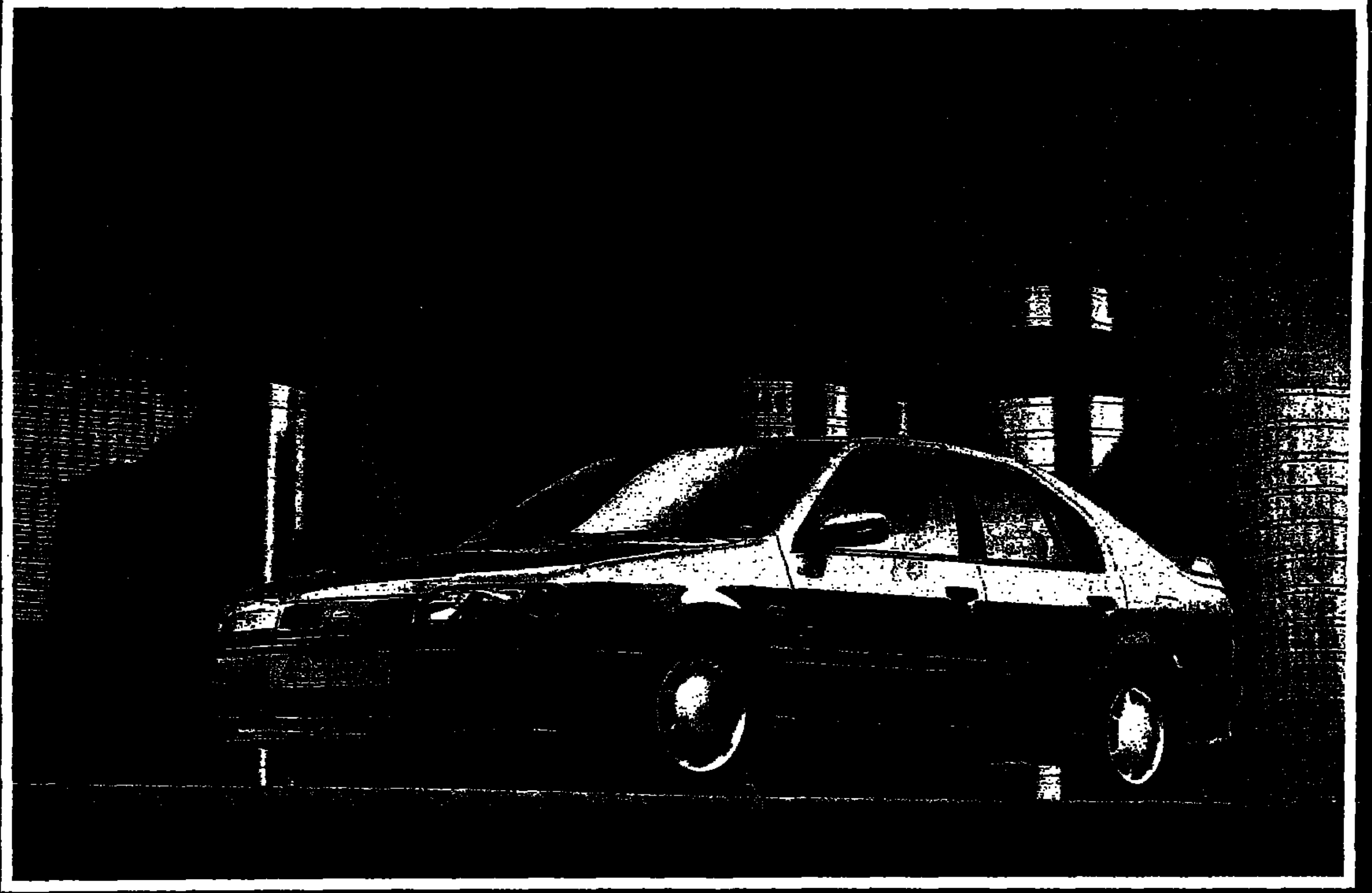

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Booth: former aide

Booth loses fight for Finchley

BY JAMES LANDALE

HARTLEY BOOTH, the Tory MP who resigned last year as a ministerial aide over his relationship with a former Commons research assistant, has lost a battle for the new seat of Finchley and Golders Green in north London.

Mr Booth, who replaced Margaret Thatcher as MP for Finchley in 1992, will have to search for a new seat after local Tories chose John Marshall, his neighbouring MP for Hendon South. The MPs' seats were merged by the Boundary Commission.

Mr Booth was considered the favourite because more of his old constituency is in the new one. Mr Marshall, however, was elected at a meeting of more than 1,000 association members on Wednesday night.

Election experts predict a Tory majority of about 12,000 in the new constituency if the electorate votes as it did in 1992.

IN PARLIAMENT

to retire

Conservatives band together to head off Powell bandwagon

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

LEADERS of a dozen conservative groups united yesterday in an extraordinary attempt to scare Colin Powell away from seeking the Republican presidential nomination.

As a new *Wall Street Journal* poll gave General Powell a record 15-point lead over President Clinton, and as Mr Clinton engaged in another remarkable public display of hand-wringing over the mistakes of his first two years in office, the conservatives called a joint Washington press conference to declare their absolute determination to prevent the centrist former general hijacking their revolution.

It was time "to let America know how true conservatives feel about Colin Powell," said Cliff Johnson, a spokesman for the American Conservative Union. "They have worked too hard over the past decades to defeat big government and liberal social policies to have the party turn its back on all their work by nominating Colin Powell."

The groups covered the range of economic and social conservatism, but Ralph Reed, head of the 1.7 million-member Christian Coalition, was conspicuously absent and other conservatives — including former Vice-President Dan Quayle — have spoken warmly of General Powell.

Polls suggest grassroots conservatives are as divided as their leaders over General Powell, who clearly offers the best prospect of a Republican White House, and a signal from Newt Gingrich, the mastermind of the "Republican revolution" and their ultimate mentor, could make all the difference.

Commentators argue that Mr Gingrich and General Powell need each other — Mr Gingrich to give the general credibility with conservatives and General Powell to lend the Speaker's revolution badly needed moral authority.

The loquacious Mr Clinton has meanwhile scored his second own goal in as many weeks. He impulsively telephoned Ben Wattenberg, a conservative columnist, to praise his new book and ended up discoursing for an hour about the failings of his first two years.

Mr Wattenberg quoted Mr Clinton as saying he had behaved "like a Prime Minister, not a President", and had been too interested in the "legislative scorecard rather than in philosophy". He had "let Democrats down" by abandoning his emphasis on values after the 1992 election, and had "lost the language" of the moderate New Democrat he campaigned as.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said Mr Wattenberg's account distorted the conversation, but it was in line with another recent presidential faux pas. During a speech in Houston Mr Clinton said that he regretted having raised taxes so much in 1993. Congressional Democrats who had risked their careers to support that tax increase were livid and the President had to backtrack swiftly.

Hijacker of Miami school bus shot dead

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN MIAMI BEACH

A HIJACKER angry with tax collectors yesterday commandeered a school bus with 11 disabled children and two adults aboard, taking them on a harrowing ride before he was fatally shot by police.

About an hour after the hijacking, the bus stopped and police fired several shots at the hijacker, witnesses said. Officers stormed the vehicle and dragged the man on to the pavement in front of a Miami Beach restaurant. The children, bus driver and an aide escaped serious injury, authorities said. "Fortunately today we were lucky, nobody was harmed," a Dade County schools spokesman said.

Jesse Dunwoody, administrator of the South Pointe Manor nursing home across the street from the restaurant, said he and ten staff watched the drama. "I don't know if he had a weapon. I don't understand why they shot him."

During the hijacking, the bus driver kept in radio contact with authorities and passed on the hijacker's demands, a police spokesman said.

Police drag away a man who hijacked a school bus after they shot him outside a Miami Beach restaurant. The 11 disabled pupils on the bus were unharmed

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lockerbie ceremony boycott

Washington: The dedication today by President Clinton of a Lockerbie disaster memorial cairn, paid for by the people of Scotland, is to be boycotted by some of the victims' relatives (Ian Brodie writes).

They are staying away to express their anger at what they regard as inadequate efforts to bring to justice those responsible for planting the bomb that killed 270 people on a Pan Am airliner seven years ago. Among those refusing to attend is Dr Jim Swire, whose daughter Flora died in the crash.

Politician killed

Bogotá: Alvaro Gómez Hurtado, 76, a former presidential candidate and outspoken critic of the Colombian Government, was killed in an attack by two or three gunmen here, local radio said. *(Reuter)*

OJ romance over

Los Angeles: The model Paula Barbieri remained celibate and waited for O.J. Simpson during his trial for double murder, but has now ended their relationship, she told ABC television. *(AP)*

Tyson: thumb injury

Tyson camp refuses to show X-rays

BY QUENTIN LETTS

SPECULATION over the nature and extent of the fracture to Mike Tyson's right thumb was fuelled yesterday when his camp refused to release X-rays of the injury.

The heavyweight boxer, due to fight Buster Mathis Jr in Las Vegas tomorrow, cancelled the fight on Wednesday, saying that he had broken the thumb in training. The move has angered broadcasters and associates who had invested in the bout, Tyson's second since his release from prison.

However, the X-rays will be sent to the Nevada State Athletic Commission. Promoters said yesterday that the injury should heal in six weeks, so would not prevent his March fight against Frank Bruno.

Flanked by doctors, Tyson appeared at a news conference with the thumb heavily bandaged. "I thought I could sneak through, but the pain became too intense and it continued hurting during sparring sessions," he said.

Boxing, page 42

One guard can run push-button US prison

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FUTURISTIC prison building, hailed as the first "push-button jail", has been opened in Chicago and will receive its first inmates soon. The prison's high-security convicts will find themselves cast into a world more akin to *Star Trek* than *Porridge*.

The new Cook County jail has been designed to allow a single prison officer, in moments of crisis, to control the entire complement of 1,536 inmates. The guard simply sits in the central control room, a place said to resemble the bridge of a Hollywood space ship. From there, via touch-sensitive television screens, he can open or close any cell door, watch the movements of prisoners and seal whole corridors. Normally, the guard-to-prisoner ratio will be 1 to 200.

Prison officials hope the jail will allow rapid reaction to disturbances and, ultimately, save money, even though the building cost $95 million (£60 million). The design is practical as well as futuristic. Its exterior features much glass, which is said to be strong enough to withstand for half an hour the combined battering of dozens of hands. Officials say it can be broken only by explosives.

Inside, there are no door keys, bare bars and forbidding corridors. The walls are painted orange, blue, green and yellow, chosen for their calming effects. Consultants advised against red, which might have agitated inmates.

Colombo on alert for Tigers attack

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN COLOMBO

THE Sri Lankan capital was on high alert last night for attacks by the Tamil Tigers, who are taking heavy punishment in the battle for control of their crumbling empire on the northern Jaffna peninsula.

Intense security has been imposed round sensitive buildings and installations in Colombo; the question is not if, but when, the Tamil Tigers will strike.

The Sri Lankan Army remains five miles from Jaffna town, fearful of moving too quickly to capture it in case it runs into the kind of spectacular booby trap for which the Tigers are renowned.

The military assault has dislodged 50,000 to 100,000 people, who are being encouraged by the Tigers to leave for reasons that are not yet clear. There has been speculation that they might be ready to use chemical weapons.

The armed forces are in a dilemma. They have proved themselves beyond most people's expectations by getting as far as they have, but the question arises: what do they do with Jaffna if it does fall? The cost would be enormous in men and resources, since the Tigers are capable of launching guerrilla assaults from bases in the jungle.

☐ **Secret hospital:** Sri Lankan troops on the outskirts of Jaffna said they had found a three-storey underground hospital where rebels treated their wounded. *(Reuter)*

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The man whose report could close a London school

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Young blood puts life back into women's tennis

FOCUS ON BUSINESS TRAVEL
Section III

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

Mis-selling inquiry to cover 150,000 urgent cases

By Robert Miller

WIDOWS and dependants are among 150,000 cases under urgent review in the £4 billion pensions mis-selling investigation ordered by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA). Compensation payments could run into tens of thousands of pounds each if the PIA finds evidence of bad advice being given by pensions salesmen.

About 367,000 cases of people, including nurses, miners, teachers and police officers, being wrongly advised to transfer out of or not join their generous occupational pension schemes in the first place are now under active investigation. Of these, 65,000 come into the category of people who opted out of their company scheme or who were advised not to join it in the first place. A further 81,000 were advised to transfer funds from an occupational scheme to a personal plan.

The PIA, the regulator responsible for firms that sell pensions and investments direct to the public, has estimated that 8.2 million personal pensions have been sold since their introduction in 1988. This is some 500,000 more than was originally estimated. The PIA's special pensions unit said last night that anyone who had been sold a personal pension had the right to ask for a review.

The PIA, headed by Colette Bowe, is writing to 1,500 independent financial advisers who have so far refused to participate in the watchdog's personal pensions review. Some advisers claim that their special insurance policies, which should cover compensation payments, could be invalidated if they take part in the review exercise.

A senior source at the PIA last night said that any adviser or pensions company refusing to supply the necessary information to the pensions unit, without justification, faces a swingeing fine or ultimately expulsion from the industry.

Later this month the PIA is to publish new rules on discipline, despite strong opposition. These will include forcing companies found guilty of rule breaches to take out full-page advertisement detailing their offences.

☐ The Association of Teachers and Lecturers, which has secured £338,000 in compensation for 26 members mis-sold pensions, has hit out at the government short-list of companies bidding to administer their public pension fund.

Six firms, including a subsidiary of Abbey National, Colonial Mutual and Capita Group, have been invited to bid for a contract to run the Teachers' Superannuation Scheme which has 500,000 active members and costs £11 million a year to run.

Susan Johnson, pensions officer of the union representing 150,000 teachers and lecturers, said: "Privatising the administration of our fund will lead to less accountability through Parliament and will be an exercise of cutting staff and costs."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3523.0	(+4.3)
Yield	4.02%	
FT-SE A All share	1730.99	(+1.44)
Nikkei	18028.80	(+554.31)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4789.08	(+22.40)*
S&P Composite	588.01	(+3.79)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 11/16%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	108 1/4*	(107 13/16)
Yield	6.26%*	(6.29%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 23/32%	(6 11/16%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107 7/16	(107 5/32)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.5815*	(1.5785)
London:		
$	1.5815	(1.5791)
DM	2.2431	(2.2305)
FFr	7.7520	(7.7390)
SFr	1.8053	(1.7962)
Yen	163.67	(162.52)
£ Index	84.5	(84.2)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.4180*	(1.4175)
FFr	4.8990*	(4.9085)
SFr	1.1420*	(1.1395)
Yen	103.55*	(103.25)
$ Index	93.5	(93.3)

Tokyo close Yen 103.65

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	$16.40	($16.20)

GOLD

London close	$382.55	($382.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Brunei prince in Asprey bid talks

By Melvyn Marckus, city editor

THE Sultan of Brunei's family is understood to be involved in negotiations that could lead to the acquisition of Asprey, the Queen's jeweller based in Bond Street.

Prince Jefri, the Sultan of Brunei's fun-loving brother, is understood to be a party to the discussions and may emerge as the ultimate purchaser.

John Asprey, chairman of Asprey, and his family trusts control 52 per cent of the equity and, in view of the company's trading problems, are believed to be prepared to surrender the firm's independence.

Talks have been shrouded in secrecy but rumours that Asprey may prove the subject of imminent developments sent the company's share price up 19p to 127p on the Stock Exchange yesterday. This is well above the 54p low reached earlier this year but a far cry from last year's high of 357p.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that trustees to the Asprey family are pressing for a price substantially above current levels, possibly in the region of 250p. This would double Asprey's capitalisation to around £200 million, a relatively insignificant sum for the likes of Prince Jefri, whose brother, the Sultan, is acknowledged as the world's richest man with a personal fortune estimated at more than £20 billion. Asprey is being advised by Hambros Magan, the City merchant bank, while the Brunei contingent is believed to be represented by SBC Warburg.

A bid for Asprey, which embraces jewellers Garrard and Mappin & Webb, would be widely perceived as a rescue operation. As *The Times* disclosed last month, the retirement of Naim Attallah, the firm's flamboyant chief executive, is thought to be imminent, whatever the outcome of the talks with the Brunei camp. Ian Dahl, former head of Sportsgirl, an Australian fashion retailer, is heir apparent to Mr Attallah.

Mr Attallah, the Palestinian socialite, author and bank roller of *The Oldie* magazine, has been criticised in the City for Asprey's acquisitive expansion in recent years.

The acquisition of Garrard and Mappin and Webb for £75 million from Sears in 1990 was followed by the £23 million purchase of Watches of Switzerland from Ratners two years later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when Asprey also bought Ronald A Lee, the antiques specialist. Other enterprises acquired include Renke Boivin, the Paris jeweller and Tomasz Starweski, the designer.

After a series of profit warnings, Asprey revealed in June that a profit of £25.4 million for 1993-94 had been replaced by a 1994-95 loss of £9.8 million after taking account of rationalisation and stock provisions of £18.8 million. The final dividend was passed.

The slide in Asprey's share price, ahead of the 1994-95 results, owed much to reports of a Bank of Scotland internal memo, which indicated that Asprey was in potential default of a £20 million facility. The bank promptly declared that it was "fully supportive" of Asprey and its management. Asprey's directors stated that the company was in no danger of default under any of its banking arrangements.

The Sultan of Brunei, owner of the Dorchester Hotel, is a long-standing client of Asprey, although in 1994-95, Bond Street felt something of a chill from such clients, particularly the Sultan of Oman.

FRANCESCO GUIDICINI

Jewels for the crown: Asprey, the Queen's jeweller in Bond Street, may be bought by the Sultan of Brunei's brother

Shell poised to sign $4bn gas deal in Nigeria

By Carl Mortished

SHELL is close to finalising a huge investment in a liquefied natural gas project in Nigeria. The Anglo-Dutch oil company expects to sign a $4 billion joint venture agreement on November 15 with its partners, including the Nigerian National Petroleum Company, Elf, Agip and the International Finance Corporation.

Shell's Nigerian LNG project was first mooted ten years ago but a spokesman for the company confirmed yesterday that work was accelerating and that they expected to meet the final investment decision date in November.

Faruk Bello, spokesman for NNPC in London, said the parties expected to agree to go ahead with the investment in a fortnight. He said: "Oil has been the major source of foreign exchange. That is depleting. Gas supplies are a welcome supplement." Nigeria has huge gas reserves which are forecast to last twice as long as oil but the fuel has so far been treated as a useless by-product and burnt. Flaring of gas from Nigeria's oilfields has been a major object of criticism by environmentalists.

The prospect of a go-ahead for Shell's Nigerian LNG project comes in a week of criticism of the oil company and its relationship with Nigeria's military Government. The company spent several years securing sales contracts with customers for the gas in Spain, France and Italy. NNPC yesterday said the project would be mainly funded by shareholders.

Shares in Shell fell yesterday after the company warned of depressed refining margins in North America and Asia. Shell's third-quarter profits were up 31 per cent to £1.117 billion on a current cost basis. The company benefited from strong growth in chemicals earnings which double to £317 million but the company warned of a slippage in demand. However, the company said it reflected an interruption in growth, rather than a cyclical downturn.

Lower average oil prices left exploration and production earnings static, despite increased volumes but refining and marketing were up 18 per cent due to increased volumes.

BP sells refinery, page 27
Tempus, page 28

Prosecution wins delay in trial of Asil Nadir aide

By Colin Narbrough

THE prosecution has won a delay in the long-awaited trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, the former aide of Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman whose Polly Peck International (PPI) electronics-to-lemons empire collapsed in 1990.

Mrs Forysth, who returned to Britain voluntarily to face the courts, is charged with handling almost £400,000 of stolen cash linked to PPI. The former head of South Audley Management (SAM), the firm that managed Mr Nadir's personal finances, denies the charges.

A Serious Fraud Office (SFO) raid on SAM in September 1990 set in train a series of events leading to the collapse of PPI. Mr Nadir was charged with theft involving £30 million. He fled to his native northern Cyprus in May 1993.

Mrs Forsyth's trial was to have started on January 16, but, in a preliminary hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice, and not, as scheduled, at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Tucker agreed to a prosecution request to delay the trial until February 12.

After the legal uncertainty over whether Mr Nadir jumped £3.5 million bail to flee to northern Cyprus, Mr Justice Tucker emphasised yesterday that Mrs Forsyth remains on bail, set at £20,000. With SFO approval, she is, however, free to travel abroad for purposes of gathering evidence, but may not visit northern Cyprus, where Mr Nadir still lives.

Mr Justice Tucker yesterday turned down a defence request for reporting restrictions to be lifted for the preliminary hearing.

Forsyth: free to travel

Cluff up on 'bid' approach

SHARES of Cluff Resources, Algy Cluff's mining group, rose 15p to 75p yesterday capitalising the company at £57.75 million, on an approach that may lead to a takeover bid. (Colin Campbell writes).

Analysts favour an overseas rather than a British company, and note that Echo Bay, the North American mining group, recently acquired a 4.76 per cent stake in the group.

Cluff would also be attractive to various South African mining groups, such as Gencor or JCI, anxious to expand into the rest of Africa and areas where Cluff is strong. The company is consulting Samuel Montagu, its financial adviser, over the approach, and said a further announcement is unlikely for several weeks.

Mr Cluff, who has 2.14 per cent of the equity, was in Zimbabwe yesterday. Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong has 26.58 per cent and Provident Mutual Life 7.6 per cent.

Directors' wage increases on rise

By Philip Bassett
Industrial editor

PAY increases for company directors are on the rise, in spite of the public dispute over high boardroom pay, according to a study published today.

But the study, which shows the highest wage rises for four years, also reveals a sharp increase in companies giving full details of boardroom pay in the light of public criticism.

While companies are now putting into place many of the recommendations on boardroom pay from the Greenbury inquiry, however, the report from the Monks Partnership, a pay consultant, shows that the highest paid company directors got rises of 8.8 per cent.

The figures in its annual study of board earnings, drawn from the annual reports of almost 1,500 listed companies, are sharply up on the previous year, when the median was running at 5.8 per cent. It also marks a reverse of the trend of the previous five years, which, according to Monks, have seen a falling back of pay rises, from more than 17 per cent in 1989.

The current median rise is more than twice the present inflation rate and close to three times the rate of increase for employees generally. But about a quarter of all highest paid directors received no increase at all, the survey shows.

Pennington, page 27

Wise men split on tax cuts

The Treasury's Six Wise Men yesterday offered Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, a wide range of differing advice for the Budget. One called for £6 billion of tax cuts both this year and next, but three argued that significant tax cuts are not justified unless paid for by genuine cuts in public spending.

A majority of members said that, if taxes are to be cut on November 28, they would like to see cuts targeted at the lower end of the income scale, not at the basic rate of income tax widely believed to be favoured by the Chancellor.

Report 26; Pennington 27

Pitman seeks backing for shares move in TSB takeover

Lloyds directors warned over options

By Patricia Tehan
Banking correspondent

LLOYDS BANK is moving to prevent share options being exercised after its proposed £13.6 billion reverse takeover of TSB. It is to put a special resolution to shareholders that will allow share options automatically triggered by the takeover to be converted into shares in the new company. The resolution is contained in a document to be sent today to the shareholders of both banks.

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, has made it clear to directors that he does not expect them to exercise options that crystalise as a result of the takeover, but the bank expects some of its 32,000 staff and 280 senior managers and directors in various schemes, to exercise some of the 50 million outstanding options.

Employees whose options are triggered will be permitted to exercise them within a limited period after the deal is completed, or permitted to release their options over Lloyds shares in return for the granting of options of a similar value in new Lloyds TSB shares.

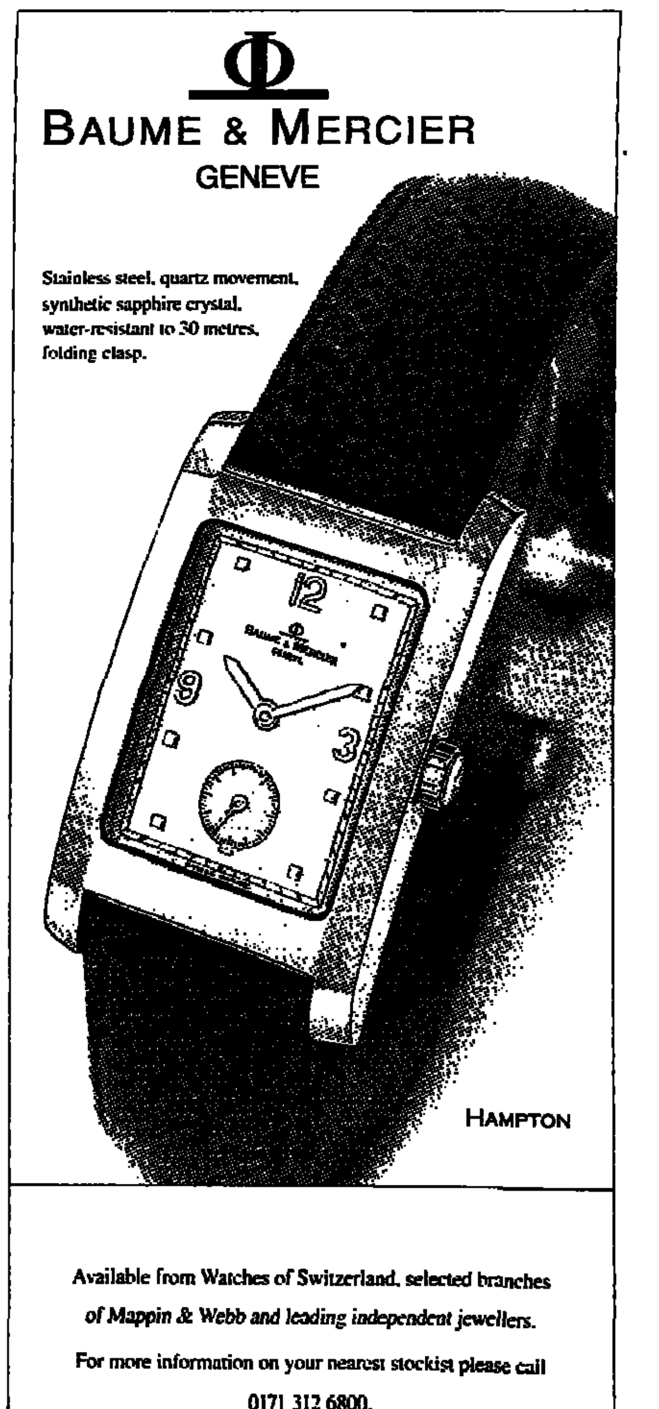
Shareholders will be asked to pass a resolution at the Lloyds extraordinary meeting to approve the deal on November 27. TSB will hold an extraordinary meeting of shareholders to approve the deal in Scotland on November 29.

In the shareholder document, the banks say that the takeover values TSB shares at a 45 per cent premium over their market value on September 11, a month before the deal was announced.

TSB shares were at 369p when the document was printed. At last night's closing 381p price, the deal values them at a premium closer to 50 per cent of their September value.

TSB employees and directors, whose share options do not crystalise, will be compensated for the lack of a 68.3p special dividend that is to be paid to TSB shareholders at a cost of £1 billion as part of the deal. The fixed payment will be made when the options are exercised. This special dividend compensation applies to 72 million TSB ordinary shares.

The special dividend will be paid to TSB shareholders in December or January, after the banks have received approval from their shareholders and after a scheme of arrangement of Lloyds Bank, which is being reversed into TSB, has received court approval.



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King & Shaxson cuts jobs

By Robert Miller

JUST months after its £16 million acquisition of Allied Provincial, the retail stockbroker, King & Shaxson has restructured the business with the loss of more than 100 jobs.

As part of the reorganisation, announced yesterday, the Allied Provincial name will disappear and its business will operate under the name of Greig Middleton, the retail stockbroker bought last year by King & Shaxson, the stockbroking and discount house. Talks are also being held with Collins Stewart with a view to the London-based stockbroker buying Greig Middleton's offshore offices in Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man, for what is believed to be "several" million pounds.

The streamlined Greig Middleton will be one of the largest retail stockbroking groups in the UK with about £7.5 billion of clients' assets under management.

Treasury panel disagrees on the scope for tax cuts

Wise men split on Budget

By Janet Bush
Economics Correspondent

THE Treasury's six-man panel of independent forecasters yesterday failed to agree a common line in its advice to the Chancellor on his Budget strategy, disagreeing widely on whether taxes should be cut.

Professor Patrick Minford, of Liverpool University and Cardiff Business School, said that he would like to see significant tax cuts of about £6 billion this year and next. He said this would still mean a further substantial fall in public borrowing in years ahead.

Andrew Britton, of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, and Professor Wynne Godley, of Cambridge, said that they would like to see some extra public spending to help to maintain the recovery. Mr Britton argued that higher spending would be more desirable than tax cuts.

Professor Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, Professor David Currie, of the London Business School, and Gavyn Davies, of Goldman Sachs, argued that public borrowing remain high and that much of the improvement being forecast by the Treasury is dependent on very tight public spending plans. They see little scope for significant tax cuts unless "financed by genuine and permanent reductions in public spending".

The report also said that they would like to see some loosening of overall macroeconomic policy, which is too tight given the economic deceleration. It said: "Most of us would like any policy relaxation to be taken at least as much in lower interest rates as in tax cuts or higher spending."

A majority of the panel also advised the Chancellor that it would be better for economic efficiency if any tax cuts were targeted at the lower end of the income scale rather than a reduction in the basic rate of tax. Most of the members also said that they opposed any further cuts in public investment in infrastructure and skills to make room for tax cuts.

A separate report published by the London Business School argued that modest tax cuts of £4 billion over the next two years could be justified, allowing 1p off the basic rate of income tax this year and a further 1p in the next.

Pennington, page 27

Kevin Maxwell 'saw transfer paper'

KEVIN MAXWELL yesterday denied that he and his father deliberately put pension funds at risk for their own interests.

Questioned over £100 million worth of shares in the Israeli company Scitex, which the prosecution alleges belong to the pensioners, he insisted he had seen an amended document in which the beneficial ownership of the shares was transferred to the Robert Maxwell Group.

In his 14th day in the witness box, the publisher's youngest son said he saw the document only briefly at a late-night meeting in his father's office, but accepted what he was told about it.

Alan Suckling, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Why? It stank, didn't it?" Kevin Maxwell said: "I had implicit faith in my father . . . It was the ordinary course of business for him and I accepted it."

Earlier Kevin told the jury he did not consider the pension fund had been in any way put at risk over the Scitex deal.

Later, when Mr Suckling said: "The truth is you and your father decided to use the Scitex shares for the benefit of RMG, completely ignoring the interests of the pensioners", Kevin answered: "That is the substance of your allegation and I reject it absolutely."

Kevin Maxwell, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Trachenberg, 42, deny conspiracy to defraud the pension fund by misusing shares. The case continues.

John Conlan, chief executive, left, with director Graham Coles

First Leisure in step for high profits

By Christine Buckley

CROWDED dancefloors look likely to make for upbeat figures from First Leisure, the disco and tenpin bowling group. The group, which will report final results fully in January, said yesterday that sales in its dance venues were up 14 per cent in the year to October 31.

This was in spite of the disposal of five discos in March, although this was offset by a 5 per cent rise in admission prices and increased spending at bars.

Bowling also showed an improved performance and helped to lift the sports division's sales 7 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

First Leisure's bingo operations seem to have defied the National Lottery. Admissions and sales were running ahead of expectations in the large capacity clubs opened during the year. But the group said the benefits would not appear immediately.

Success in these activities will help to offset the impact of a slip in sales at the group's resorts.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

World insurance network formed

SIX of the world's largest insurance brokers have formed a private company to run the first global electronic network for the industry worldwide. The World Insurance Network (WIN) will be based in London and will enable documents, information, invoices and electronic mail to be exchanged via computers across the world. The company, owned equally by Alexander & Alexander, Aon, Johnson & Higgins, Marsh & McLennan, Sedgwick, and Willis Corroon, expects to offer a full service from next spring. Subscription is open to all insurance brokers and insurance companies.

British Telecom and MCI, the American telecoms company in which BT has a 20 per cent stake, will provide the technology through their joint-venture company, Concert. The deal is thought to be worth more than £10 million in the first year, and BT is believed to have beaten tenders from AT&T and IBM to run WIN.

Readicut's '£1.6m hole'

READICUT International, the specialist textiles group, has discovered a £1.6 million hole in the accounts of one of its carpet businesses. Readicut said that assets at Firth Carpets had been overstated by that amount over the past two financial years. There would be net exceptional charges of £1.2 million this year to cover the problem and appropriate changes in management had been made, said the Brighouse, West Yorkshire, group. It said it was satisfied the trading performance this year would be unaffected.

Bellway advances

BELLWAY, the housebuilder based in Newcastle, lifted pre-tax profits to £34 million from £28 million in the year to July 31. Turnover increased 33 per cent to £267 million. However, a change in government funding caused a reduction in Housing Association sector sales, slowing down turnover towards the year-end with reservations at August 1, 1995, being lower than those in 1994. Earnings per share increased 23 per cent to 21.4p. The final dividend is up 0.45p to 5.25p, making a total of 7.7p (7p).

Banks lag on EU law

ALMOST a third of UK banks will not be ready to comply with new European Union legislation on January 1 on their capital adequacy, after running into computer and staffing problems. A survey by Touche Ross, accountants, found 30 per cent of banks are behind with the integration of CAD reporting systems with existing accounting and risk management systems. Delays by their external software suppliers have added to the problems, as has the shortage of systems personnel.

Gaming reform urged

A FRESH call for faster reformation of gaming regulations was made yesterday by John Garrett, a director of the Rank Organisation, which runs nearly 200 bingo clubs and amusement centres and 30 casinos. Addressing the annual conference of Business in Sport and Leisure, he condemned the Gaming Act for being outdated and too stringent. He added that casinos and bingo operators were largely disadvantaged compared with the National lottery because of the advertising restrictions placed on them.

Taxman trims returns

THE Inland Revenue has been forced to simplify its new-style tax returns and cut the number of schedules for different categories of taxpayer after the returns proved too complex. New returns are being tested for the April 1997 switch to self-assessment. Nine million people will receive new-style returns, consisting of a return plus separate schedules that the Revenue thinks relevant. Schedules have been cut from a possible 15 to a maximum eight. Basic matters, such as bank interest, will go in the main return instead of a schedule.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	16.78	15.28
Belgium Fr	49.01	44.71
Canada $	2.241	2.081
Cyprus Cyp£	0.751	0.698
Denmark Kr	9.29	8.49
Finland Mkk	7.31	6.65
France Fr	8.15	7.50
Germany Dm	2.39	2.18
Greece Dr	384.00	359.00
Hong Kong $	12.84	11.84
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1500	4.5000
Italy Lira	2615.00	2460.00
Japan Yen	177.50	161.50
Malta	0.596	0.541
Netherlds Gld	2.661	2.431
New Zealand $	2.55	2.33
Norway Kr	10.46	9.66
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.42
Spain Pta	200.50	187.50
Sweden Kr	11.07	10.27
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.78
Turkey Lira	refer	77256.0
USA $	1.675	1.545

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

G&N rises in first half

GERRARD & National, the derivatives broker and discount house, reported an 8.66 per cent increase in pre-tax profits in the half year to September 30 in challenging market conditions (Patricia Tehan writes).

The firm said operating income increased in all main subsidiaries, although its financial futures and options business made less profit than in the same period last year on reduced turnover. The interim dividend has been held at 8p, due on December 15.

G&N's policy of bringing together businesses that will benefit from integration is well under way.

هكذا من الاصل

صورة من الاصل

First Leisure in step for high profits

By Christine Buckley

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Success in these activities will help to offset the impact of a slip in sales at the group's resorts.

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G&N's policy of bringing together businesses that will benefit from integration is well under way.

☐ The wise men's destiny is to disagree ☐ Bosses' pay tops inflation ☐ NatWest expected to make a purchase

Clarke can be a panel beater

☐ KENNETH CLARKE is likely to have made far less heavy weather of yesterday's report from his six remaining wise men than the crucial Cabinet meeting to discuss public spending. The degree of disagreement on his venerable forecasting panel leaves his options deliciously open.

It has long been suspected that the forecasting panel was doomed from the start as a source of serious advice to the Chancellor, peopled as it is with economists who were always destined to disagree wildly. Yesterday's report, theoretically important because it comes just weeks before the Budget decisions have to made, was a model of its kind. The advice on Budget policy could not have offered Mr Clarke more variety.

Patrick Minford advocated £6 billion of tax cuts both this year and next, and argued that this would still leave public borrowing on a sharply declining path. Three compatriots argued that there was little scope for significant tax cuts unless these were financed by genuine and permanent reductions in public spending. But — *vive la différence* — two others argued for *higher* public spending.

If taxes are to be cut, which ones should they be? Again, Mr Clarke is offered a luxurious pick and mix. Professor Minford said that tax cuts should be concentrated on the standard and top rates of tax. But most of his companions argue that tax cuts should be concentrated at the lower end of income distribution, not at the basic rate of income tax.

Never let it be said that the wise men are consensually dull. They also disagree completely on the merits or otherwise of the new monetary policy framework. Three out of the six want to see greater autonomy for the Bank of England to set interest rates, however, one of these only wants it if the Bank is reformed. Two members vehemently oppose more power for the Bank, one advocating a "return to adviserly modesty" for the Old Lady of Threadneedle Street. Two argue that there should be other official targets than for inflation, including economic growth. One wants a broad money supply target, another wants a monitoring range for nominal domestic demand growth, yet another wants a simple inflation objective of 2 per cent, but no target band.

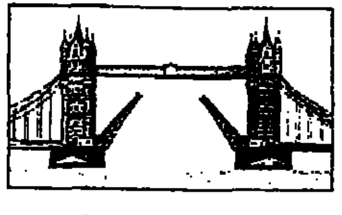
There is, however, one thing that all can agree on. The Chancellor, wise or not, will not take the blindest bit of notice.

Fat cats put on more weight

☐ Britain's business fat cats are still getting fatter. They are picking up pay increases at twice the inflation rate, when awarding rises to their employees at below-inflation levels.

More than that, the Monks Partnership survey shows that even with Greenbury fresh in directors' minds, boardroom pay is on the up after five years of reducing increases.

PENNINGTON



Though the public outcry over executive pay ran for longer — a great deal longer — than either politicians or business leaders thought it would, it is clear that it has now subsided.

Such is the nature of public debate: six months ago, the scale and direction of directors' pay rises indicated by the Monks survey would have been fuel on the flames. Now, it will pass with a great deal less heat. In retrospect, Greenbury has been crucial to that. The inquiry sought by the Prime Minister and set up under the chairmanship of Marks & Spencer head Sir Richard Greenbury looked at the time unlikely to calm down the row over corporate pay. But to a large extent it has done so. Apart from the continuing debate over the Chancellor's decision to impose income tax on share options, Greenbury looks as though it has largely done the job which was hoped for it.

Greenbury, of course, did not materially address the level of boardroom pay rises. However, post-Greenbury, few companies can sustain the mystique and indeed downright obfuscation which used to surround the coy little disclosures in annual reports about what the directors were getting.

Directors' apologists argue that the increases simply reflect improved company performance, which bodes well for continued economic growth. Perhaps so; but the relative quiet on the pay front will not be helped by the sight of boardroom pay on the rise at double-inflation levels.

Banking on a deal

☐ LOTS of lovely cash — possibly as much as $4 billion — should soon be burning a hole in NatWest's coffers. The bank is inching towards the sale of its New Jersey retail banking operation and the stock market has already moved into takeover overdrive.

Observers are predicting an acquisition of anything from a UK insurer (namely Legal & General) to a Far Eastern retail bank (Standard Chartered). The frenzy is helped by Lloyds Bank's agreed union with TSB, although yesterday's rise in TSB's share price suggested that it is not too late for a rival to spoil the party.

The assumption appears to be that Britain's biggest bank has already focused on a target.

Advised by Goldman Sachs, NatWest has a shortlist in place for Bancorp which must include Bank of New York, First Union Corp, the North Carolina-based bank, and HSBC, owner of Marine Midland.

Once Bancorp is out of the way, NatWest can look to acquisition. Schroders would be the star prize, but the Schroder family does not at present appear to be a seller. Similarly, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild is highly unlikely to be persuaded to give up control of N M Rothschild.

The Standard Chartered rumours continue. But it may be too expensive, with a market value of £5 billion, and a likely agreed takeover price of something over £6 billion.

NatWest is to buy Gleacher & Co, the American M&A boutique but this is not enough to achieve its investment banking goals. If Smith Barney or Bear Stearns could be brought to the negotiating table, NatWest's ambitions could be satisfied.

Hong Kong Telecom ahead 15%

By Alasdair Murray

SHARES in Cable and Wireless, the telecommunications company, received a boost yesterday, when its Hong Kong Telecom subsidiary announced a 15 per cent rise in profits to HK$5.6 billion (£460 million). The results pleased the City before C&W's own interim results on November 16. At the close its shares were up 11p at 423p.

Hong Kong Telecom, which is 57.5 per cent owned by C&W, has consistently been the star performer in the company's 50-strong worldwide portfolio of telecom interests.

Hong Kong Telecom made its advances despite a slowdown in traffic with the vital Chinese market, where growth was 8 per cent against 21 per cent last time. But Hong Kong Telecom reported strong growth in other areas, including its mobile telephone division, which attracted 70,000 new customers, and a 28.5 per cent increase in leased line and data services. Hong Kong contributes as much as two-thirds of C&W's own profits.

Boots prepared to win if price-fixing ends

By Sarah Bagnall

LORD BLYTH, chief executive of Boots, yesterday said that the group's chemist chain would emerge a winner from any price war triggered by an ending of the price-fixing arrangement for branded medicaments.

Lord Blyth said that Boots supported the 25-year-old resale price maintenance (RPM) arrangement, which is under review by the Office of Fair Trading. He said that the abolition of RPM would result in a drastic cut in the overall number of pharmacies, an event that was not in the public's interest.

However, he emphasised that "whatever the outcome we are uniquely positioned to benefit". Of the 12,000 pharmacies in Britain, Boots is the largest operator with 1,194 outlets, compared with approximately 9,000 that are small, independent outlets.

The size of Boots gives the group buying power, and the company would try to drive greater volumes through its stores in an attempt to offset margin pressures. Lord Blyth drew attention to last year's perfume wars as proof of the chain's aggressive response when its core markets come under attack. Boots managed to drive fragrance sales ahead 22 per cent and lifted its market share.

His remarks came as Boots announced a drop in pre-tax profits from £289.7 million to £227.9 million in the six months to September 30. The decline reflected a £10 million one-off charge and the absence of a contribution from the pharmaceutical division, which Boots sold to BASF last year. Boots is still negotiating the receipt of a final payment of £88 million. Group sales from continuing operations rose from £1.8 billion to £1.9 billion.

Sir Michael Angus, chairman, said: "Boots the Chemist was the star performer." The chain, which accounts for about 80 per cent of the group profits, lifted pre-tax profits from £145 million to £164.3 million on sales ahead 5.7 per cent at £1.5 billion. The City was slightly disappointed by the like-for-like sales growth of 4.5 per cent.

Angus: "star performer"

Rod Whitehead, an analyst at SBC Warburg, said: "BTC saw lower second-quarter like-for-like sales than in the first half. Although the second quarter was tougher, BTC should have benefited more from the weather with demand for sunglasses, sun lotions and photoprocessing."

The performance by BTC contrasted with the rest of the group's retail businesses. Both Halfords and the DIY operations reported dismal results. Do It All, the joint venture with WH Smith, saw sales slump 9.7 per cent and losses deepened to £4.8 million, while sales at AG Stanley fell 10.2 per cent and losses increased to £7.6 million.

Sir Michael said: "While the housing market remains depressed we expect little good news in this area."

The results prompted analysts to cut their full-year forecasts, and the shares fell 11p to 540p. The interim dividend, due on February 2, was lifted from 5.35p to 5.7p. Earnings per share fell from 20.2p to 15.9p.

Tempus, page 28

Kwik Save slips as price war bites

By Sarah Bagnall

KWIK SAVE, the discount stores group, yesterday confirmed that the price war among food retailers is back with a vengeance as it disclosed a fall in full-year profits.

Pre-tax profits fell by 7.4 per cent, to £125.5 million, in the year to August 26 in spite of an advance of nearly 7 per cent, to £3.2 billion, in sales in the group's 979 stores. Profits benefited by £15 million from a change in accounting for discounts from suppliers.

The results were worse than the City had expected and the shares fell 68p, to 610p, against a high for the year of 731p, reached in September.

Excluding results of the 66 new Kwik Save stores opened in the year, like-for-like sales fell by 2.6 per cent, although there was a return of price inflation, at 0.8 per cent.

Graeme Bowler, chief executive, said: "The return of inflation on certain basic grocery products does not herald a reduction in the pricing pressures within the industry."

Although, earlier in the year, service had replaced price as the major emphasis for several rivals, "in recent weeks, pricing activity has intensified", Mr Bowler said. Food retailers will have to give "constant attention to pricing" because of capacity constraints on the UK food market and the expansion plans of superstore operators, he added.

Referring to Shoprite, the chain bought last year, Mr Bowler said that the 65 stores that have been converted were achieving sales growth of near to 80 per cent, rising from 420p a square foot to 750p.

The group is paying a final dividend of 14.05p, making a total for the year of 20p, up 3.9 per cent. The dividend, due on January 11, is from earnings per share of 51.7p, down from 57.3p last time.

BP sells refinery to Tosco

By Carl Mortished

COMPETITIVE pressure in the American gasoline market has forced BP to pull out of its refining and marketing operations in the northeastern United States. BP will suffer a charge of $385 million on the sale to Tosco Corporation of the Marcus Hook refinery in Philadelphia plus nine product terminals and pipeline interests.

Half of the charge, which will appear as an exceptional item in BP's third-quarter figures, relates to a loss over book value, with the remainder relating to potential environmental liabilities. A refinery has operated from the site since the 1920s.

Tosco is paying $235 million for the assets and inventories and a 15-year licence agreement to develop the BP gasoline brand in the northeast, which currently sells from about 500 independent service stations. BP will participate in future profits up to $50 million over the next five years.

Tempus, page 28

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Store wars take toll on food retailers' shares

SHARES of Britain's food retailers were beating a ragged retreat as they continued counting the cost of the food price war which has been ripping through the high street.

On Wednesday, J Sainsbury shocked the Square Mile with a set of half-year figures that showed that it was losing the initiative against its biggest rival, Tesco, and that trading conditions were not getting any easier.

At the other end of the market, Kwik Save is also finding the going difficult. It added to the gloom yesterday with full-year figures showing a worse than expected decline in pre-tax profits. They were down £10 million at £125.5 million on sales 7 per cent higher at £3.2 billion. Brokers have now begun to downgrade their profit estimates for the current year. Trading shows few signs of improvement, with like-for-like sales just 0.3 per cent ahead. But with inflation running at 2.8 per cent, sales volume is down 2.5 per cent.

Brokers say that some of the food retailers, such as Tesco, Argyll, including the Safeway chain, and Asda, have improved their standing in the high street. But the City has tarred them all with the same brush. **Sainsbury** shed a further 12p at 391p, while losses were also seen in **Asda**, of 4¼p to 95½p, **Argyll**, 11p to 301p, **Budgens**, 1½p to 32½p, **Iceland Group**, 10p to 154p, **William Morrison Supermarkets**, 7p to 141p, and **Tesco**, 7p to 286p. The worst fall was reserved for **Kwik Save**, which was left nursing a plunge of 68p to 610p.

Share prices generally took their lead from a positive performance overnight on Wall Street. But they failed to hold on to their early lead because they were weighed down by a steady stream of disappointing news on the corporate front. The FT-SE 100 index, up more than 17 points at one stage, saw its lead cut to 4.3 at 3,523.0 by the close.

Asprey, the Queen's jeweller, has had more than its fair share of troubles recently. Judging by the sharp rise in the share price yesterday, its days as an independent company may be numbered. The price touched 130p before finishing 19p better at 127p. The speculators are bracing themselves for a bid of 200p a share, valuing the company at £160 million. Vendomme, which includes names like Dunhill, has been tipped as a possible suitor. Others say Arab money could be behind the move.

British Aerospace jumped 9p to 718p, reflecting its investment in the Orange mobile telephone network, which it jointly owns with Hutchison Whampoa. Brokers say Orange could be floated off in 1997.

Glaxo Wellcome was a firm market adding 16p at 871p on turnover of almost six million shares. Next Wednesday, the group is taking a party of brokers to its new research centre at Slough, Berkshire. The group boasts an extensive research and development programme and brokers will be hoping for positive news.

Trading news from **Boots** failed to live up to expectations and pushed the shares 17p lower at 534p. Pre-tax profits in the first six months came out at £227.9 million compared with £289.7 million last time, which included an exceptional gain of £47.8 million. Before exceptionals, profits fell almost 10 per cent to £218.7 million, mainly due to increased losses at Do It All and AG Stanley and the absence of profits from its pharmaceutical business, sold off earlier this year to BASF.

Norweb advanced 30p to £11.85 after **North West Water**, 2p better at 597p, received the go-ahead to proceed with its bid.

ICI's recent warning about the tail-off in chemical prices and demand appears to be borne out by third-quarter figures from **Royal Dutch Shell**. Profits from its chemical operations were up sharply from £158 million to £317 million, but down on the previous quarter. The group said it expected the trend to continue into 1996. Replacement net profits in the first nine months grew from £815 million to £1.05 billion. The shares dropped 16½p to 729p.

Rival **BP** softened 3p to 468p after announcing that its third-quarter figures will include an exceptional charge of $385 million relating to the sale of its refining and marketing interests in the US.

The **Body Shop** share price boiled over, falling 14p to 140p as this week's talk of a possible buyback showed signs of receding for the time being, at least. Brokers are taking the view that it could be some time before Anita and Gordon Roddick, the founders, finally get the finance in place in order to make an offer to shareholders. Between them they hold 24 per cent of the company and are said to have obtained the backing of another founding shareholder, Ian McGlinn, with almost 30 per cent of the shares.

Telspec soared more than £1 as buyers continued to pile into the shares. It finished 110p up at £10.45 after a line of 300,000 shares changed hands at the £10 level. Brokers say the group will benefit from BT's venture into the video-on-demand business.

Cluff Resources, the exploration group headed by Algy Cluff, climbed 15p to 75p on the news that the group had received a bid approach.

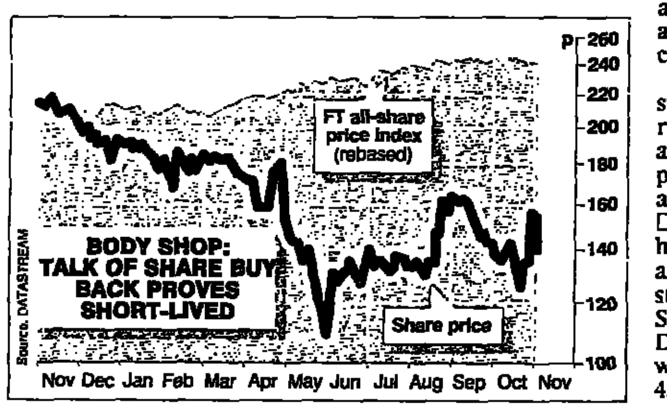
☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Prices extended this week's gains supported by a positive performance from the pound and firmer international bond markets. Dealers reported a further flattening of the yield curve, with the best gains recorded again at the longer end. There were signs of profit-taking during the afternoon before prices enjoyed another late surge, closing near their best of the day ahead of today's US non-farm payroll numbers.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt advanced £9/32 to £107 7/16 as a total of 50,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2013 enjoyed a rise of £3/8 at £99 9/16, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £5/32 better at £102⅞.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Renewed hopes of a cut in interest rates and a rally in high technology stocks saw shares on Wall Street higher. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 22.40 points at 4,789.08.

Cluff Resources jumped 15p on news of a bid offer



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 4789.08 (+22.40)
S&P Composite .... 588.01 (+3.79)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 18028.80 (+554.31)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 9749.36 (-33.03)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 454.02 (-2.08)

Sydney:
AO .... 2059.0 (+3.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2183.98 (+20.76)

Singapore:
Straits .... 2099.38 (-1.16)

Brussels:
General .... 7786.51 (+22.52)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 1828.74 (+14.73)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 696.70 (+3.00)

London:
FT 30 .... 2577.7 (-0.9)
FT 100 .... 3523.0 (+4.3)
FT-SE Mid 250 .... 3886.8 (-1.7)
FT-SE-A 350 .... 1752.8 (+1.5)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 .... 1409.91 (+6.52)
FT A All-Share .... 1730.99 (+1.44)
FT Non Financials .... 1832.16 (-0.62)
FT Fixed Interest .... 112.42 (+0.35)
FT Govt Secs .... 94.04 (-0.65)
Bargains 26886
SEAQ Volume 711.5m
USM (Datastrm) .... 184.43 (+0.34)
US$ .... 1.5809 (-0.0024)
German Mark .... 2.2438 (-0.0082)
Exchange Index .... 84.5 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU .... n/a
£:SDR 1.0572
RPI .... 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust Asn Sml	92	...
Abtrust Asn Sml Wts	32½	...
Arion Props	10	+ 1
Chartwell Intl	50	...
Cons Coal (50)	68	...
Creos International	104	...
Fleming Jpn C	101	+ 1
German Slr Wrts	17	...
Guinness Flight	94	...
Guinness Flight U	195	+ 1
Guinness Flight W	12	...
Hay & Robertson	37	...
Indpt Radio	114	- 3
Intl Greetings	523	- 10
MultiMedia (45)	60	- 1
Murray Vct	103	...
Northern Venture	100	...
Perptl UK Sml (100)	102	...
Preston Nth (400)	400	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Choice n/p (60)	5½	- 1
Quality SP n/p (535)	129	- 1
Stordata Sol n/p (12)	5½	...
Wellington U n/p (100)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Asprey .... 127p (+19p)
MMT Comp .... 199p (+19p)
Unipalm .... 574p (+46p)
Tadpole Tech .... 80p (+6p)
Filtronic Com .... 495p (+25p)
Forward Group .... 575p (+27p)
Azlan .... 480p (+22p)
Sothebys .... 920p (+40p)
Pegasus .... 242p (+9p)
Regent Inns .... 572p (+16p)
Rainford .... 410p (+11p)

FALLS:
Blick .... 459p (-31p)
Evans Halshaw .... 298p (-20p)
Wm Baird .... 193p (-12p)
BWI .... 140p (-7p)
Argyll .... 301p (-11p)
Storehouse .... 288p (-10p)
Church .... 395p (-13p)
J Sainsbury .... 391p (-12p)
Boots .... 540p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 30

TEMPUS

Oil warning light is on

IF SHELL has little influence over the behaviour of African dictators, it has even less over refining and chemical margins, a matter of greater concern to the company's shareholders. The share price of Shell Transport plunged yesterday as the company gave warning of depressed refining margins in Asia and signs of weaker demand in chemicals.

The market is right to be concerned, although Shell insisted yesterday that weak chemical prices, while expected to last until 1996, were a hiatus before renewed growth, not a cyclical downturn. Such a view reflects that of chemical manufacturers, such as ICI, who buy feedstocks from the petrochemical companies. Recent dips in demand for chemical products were blamed on temporary destocking after a build-up earlier in the year.

The worry is that the profits recovery of the integrated oil majors over the past two years has been led by sharp improvements in their chemical businesses which had suffered severe losses in the recession. Part of this is due to cost-cutting, and Shell boasted yesterday that its return on capital over the past year was 12.5 per cent. However, Shell's quarterly profits in chemicals tend to lag the price cycle due to long-term contracts, and the market fears a chemicals dip next year.

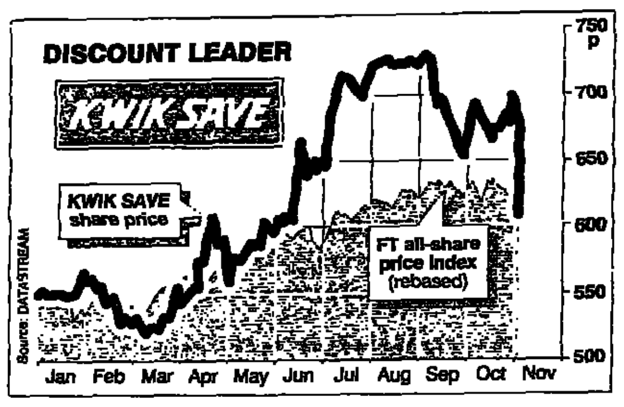
Meanwhile, refining margins are falling in the US and in Asia, where the industry is anticipating a build-up in capacity. Anticipation of huge demand from China and the "Tiger" economies fuelled investment, but the markets are volatile and Chinese demand unpredictable. With oil prices weak, the oil majors need good downstream margins but the market seems unwilling to co-operate.

Kwik Save

DISCOUNTERS depend on big volumes and high stock turns to make money so it must be particularly galling for Kwik Save to see volumes decline and stock levels climb in its year of record expansion. However, the company shows no sign of embarrassment and points to the inevitable disruption caused by a record investment of £199 million. In addition, the refurbishment of Kwik Save's small stores involves two-week closures and staff redeployment, another drain on the business.

If Kwik Save sees the current year as one of consolidation, it is not apologising for overexpansion. Indeed, with overall like-for-like sales negative and sharply falling in the smaller stores, it has little choice but to spend aggressively. Over the past five years, it has been pincered in the price war; first by German discounters, who attacked the bottom of the market, then by the superstores as they narrowed the price gap on basic food items.

The price squeeze has put Kwik Save on a treadmill: it needs to grow in size to achieve the volumes necessary to grow profits. However, the costs of growth are rising. The superstores are once again looking for sites, and land prices are increasing. Kwik Save yesterday indicated it was prepared to see its dividend cover slip from recent high levels of 3 times. If price pressures continue, it may be forced to reduce it further.



Boots

BOOTS needs to use Botanics, one of its hair products, which claims to protect the user against damage from the environment.

The retailing environment looks distinctly hostile, and if further proof were needed, Boots yesterday revealed a fall in interim profits and weak like-for-like sales growth in several businesses. The City was right to take fright and cut its full-year forecasts.

DIY is in the doldrums and prospects for a revival in the short term are slim. Do It All is a bit player in a market dominated by big boys, while the Halfords performance is being dragged down by garage servicing. There are problems elsewhere, such as Boots Contract Manufacturing, which suffered from higher raw material costs.

However, Boots the company is mainly Boots The Chemist and the measure of the group's overall health is the performance of the chemist chain. Like-for-like sales growth of 4.5 per cent looked adequate, if helped by inflation, but BTC's results include rate rebates that are beginning to dry up, and competition from supermarket groups continues to threaten their market. BTC will be hard pressed to maintain momentum, and as a result, the shares, on about 16 times, look fairly priced.

Azlan

SHARES in Azlan have sparkled since April alongside interest in the fashionable and expanding Internet network.

A new chief executive at the computer services group helped it to overcome past underperformance and the shares have quadrupled since April to reach 480p.

A pan-European distribution agreement with IBM Networking Systems in April to distribute its local network and connecting products to resellers across Europe marked a watershed for Azlan. Last month's distribution deal with Netscape, the US Internet software developer, is even more promising, as Internet subscribers grow by up to 15 per cent a month.

Azlan's high-margin service business is based on a strategy of developing network products and taking them on a European tour, with yesterday's acquisition of Ronin adding The Netherlands to its portfolio. The business should grow further, as manufacturers increasingly see service providers as a good way to get their gadgets into offices.

Analysts expect full-year pre-tax profits to top £9.3 million, giving earnings of 26.8p a share. The shares have had a good run and margins could come under pressure as competition hots up. Most of the good news is in the share price, but if US investors take an interest there could be further to go.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA
Dec .... 922-921 Mar 1035-1034
Mar .... 952-951 May 1044-1041
May .... 969-968 Jul .... unq
Jul .... 986-985 Sep .... -
Sep 1003-1002
Dec .... 1022-1019 Volume: 2981

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)
Nov .... 2415-2410 Jul 2120-2100
Jan .... 2300-2293 Sep 2070-2050
Mar .... 2225-2220 Nov 2050-2025
May .... 2161-2160 Volume: 5058

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)
Reuters Aug 319.0-18.5
Spot: 381.5 Oct 290.0-89.5
Dec .... 358.0-57.8 Dec 286.5-85.1
Mar .... 334.0-33.8 Mar 284.5-82.2
May .... 325.9-25.1 Volume: 2239

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on November 1

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	98.86	106.05	125.48
(+/-)	+1.18	+3.20	+0.56
Eng/Wales:	96.86	106.89	124.64
(+/-)	+1.19	+3.61	+0.91
(%)	+7.0	+1.0	+8.0
Scotland.	unq	103.62	130.06
(+/-)	..	+1.88	-1.77
(%)		-5.0	+15.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)
Brent Physical .... 16.80 +0.35
Brent 15 day (Dec) .... 16.60 +0.35
Brent 15 day (Jan) .... 16.40 +0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Dec) 17.90 +0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Jan) 17.65 +0.35

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)
Premium Gas .15 B: 182 (+2) O: 184 (+2)
Gasoil EEC .... 157 (+3) 158 (+3)
Non EEC IH Nov 157 (+3) 158 (+3)
Non EEC IH Dec 157 (+3) 158 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil .... 86 (n/c) 88 (n/c)
Naphtha .... 154 (n/c) 156 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)
GAS OIL
Nov .... 155.00-55.25 Feb . 153.25-53.50
Dec .... 154.50-54.75 Mar . 152.00-52.75
Jan .... 154.50-54.75 Vol: 23593

BRENT (6.00pm)
Dec .... 16.58-16.59 Mar .... 16.07 BID
Jan .... 16.38-16.39 Apr 15.95-16.00
Feb .... 16.22-16.24 Vol: 27697

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)
Nov 123.90
Jan 125.75
Mar 127.75
May 129.60
Jul 131.70
Volume: 826

BARLEY (close £/t)
Nov 114.00
Jan 117.00
Mar 119.00
May 120.75
Sep 109.50
Volume: 184

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	175.0
Apr	290.0	291.5
May	unq	330.0
		Volume: 89

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Dec 101.25-101.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Nov 95	1640	1595	1643
Dec 95	1645	1592	1645
Jan 96	1648	1595	1648
Apr 96	1640	1590	1640

Vol: 305 lots Open Interest: 3644
Index 1538 -1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2960.0-2965.0	2805.0-2806.0	2721950
Lead ($/tonne)	703.00-704.00	696.00-697.00	167250
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1045.0-1046.0	1066.0-1066.5	697125
Tin ($/tonne)	6530.0-6540.0	6535.0-6540.0	31370
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1690.0-1690.5	1723.0-1723.5	1673750
Nickel ($/tonne)	8940.0-8945.0	9030.0-9040.0	68250

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Dom.	500	21	31	34	18	21½	31½
(*508)	550	4½	12	14½	55½	56½	69½
Argyll	300	12½	21	25	13	17	22½
(*300½)	330	3	10	13	34½	36½	41½
ASDA	90	9	11	14	3	3½	5
(*95½)	100	4	6½	9	8	9½	9½
Boots	500	42	54½	60½	6	9	15
(*537)	550	15	24½	32	25½	30½	37½
Br Airways	460	21½	32½	40½	15	19½	25½
(*465)	500	7	14½	22½	41	44	48½
BP	460	19	27½	33½	11	17	21½
(*467½)	500	4	11	16½	37½	41½	44½
Br Steel	160	7	11½	14½	7	9	13
(*161)	180	1½	4½	6½	22	23	26
C & W	420	19	34	41½	15½	22½	28
(*422½)	460	5½	17	24	42	46½	51½
CU	600	39	48½	57	12½	27½	33
(*615½)	650	16	24	33½	40	56	61
ICI	750	55½	65½	74½	8	20½	25½
(*790½)	800	24	35½	47	27½	45	49
Kingfishr.	460	35	45½	50½	8½	19	24½
(*480)	500	14	24	30	27½	39½	45
Land Sec	550	40	51	56½	5½	8½	17
(*585)	600	11	21½	26½	27	31	41
M & S	390	25½	34	39	6	10½	14½
(*407½)	420	8	17	22½	20	24	29
Nat West	600	48	57	67	11	25	32
(*629)	650	20½	30½	42	33½	50½	58
Sainsbury	390	15	24½	29	12½	16	21½
(*390)	420	5	12	16½	34½	36	40
Shell	700	42½	53½	57½	4½	14	18
(*728)	750	13½	23½	29	25½	36	42
Smkl Bch.	600	57½	69	79	5½	11½	14½
(*648½)	650	23½	37	49	22	30½	33½
Storehse	280	16	22½	29½	7	11½	14½
(*288)	300	6½	12½	19½	18½	21½	25
Trafalgar	20	5	6½	8	2½	3	4
(*23)	25	2½	4½	6½	5½	6	7
Unilever.	1200	43	65	76	20	34½	39½
(*1219½)	1250	17½	38	50½	46½	60	65½
Zeneca	1150	75	100½	120	28½	51	60½
(*1182½)	1200	47½	73	92½	50½	74½	83½

	Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
Grnd Met.	420	20	31	39	3	16	18
(*436½)	460	2½	14½	20	25½	39½	40
Ladbroke	160	3	11½	13½	2	6½	9½
(*161½)	180	0	4	5½	19½	19½	22
Utd Bisc	260	11	21½	29	2½	9	13½
(*268)	280	2	12	19	13½	19	24½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
BAA	460	43	54½	60½	4	7	12
(*497½)	500	16	29	35½	17½	21½	27
Thames W	500	34	46½	54	10½	19½	25½
(*527½)	550	11½	23½	28½	39	42	52½

	Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
BAT Ind	500	31	47½	53½	0½	11	19
(*528½)	550	3½	21	27	22½	33½	45
BTR	330	7½	19	23	2	9	14½
(*335)	360	0	6½	9½	25	27	32½
Br Aero	700	24½	54½	67	6	21	34½
(*718)	750	3½	30½	43	34½	47	60
Br Telem	360	19½	25½	32	0	7½	9½
(*378)	390	2	9½	17	12½	23½	25
Cadbury	500	23½	44½	46½	4	16½	22½
(*518½)	550	2½	20	25	32½	43	49½
Guinness	500	13½	30½	37	3	11½	20
(*509)	550	0	9½	14½	41	42½	49
GEC	300	17½	23½	31½	1	6	7½
(*316)	330	1	8	16	14½	20½	22
Hanson	180	11	14½	16½	0½	5	6½
(*190½)	191	3	8½	—	3½	10½	—
LASMO	140	12	17½	20	0½	4	6
(*151)	160	1	7½	10	9½	13	15½
Lucas	180	18½	25½	28½	0	3	5½
(*196)	200	3½	13	16½	5½	11½	13½
Pilkingtn	180	14	19	25	0½	4½	6
(*193½)	200	2	6½	13½	9	14	14½
Prudential	390	23½	39½	42	1½	10	16
(*411½)	420	4½	21	26	12½	21½	30½
Redland	330	21	33½	40½	1	5½	11½
(*349½)	360	2½	16	23½	12½	17½	26
R-Royce	140	13½	18½	20½	0	3	5
(*153)	160	1½	7	9½	7½	11½	14½
Tesco	280	9½	19½	23½	2	7½	13½
(*286)	300	1	10	13½	14½	18	24
Vodafone	260	8	16½	26	3½	12	15½
(*263½)	280	1	10½	16½	17	23½	26½
Williams	300	15½	24½	29	1	4½	9½
(*314)	330	1	9½	12½	17	19½	25½

FT-SE INDEX (*3521½)

	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650
Calls						
Nov	135	90½	52½	26	10	3
Dec	164	129½	92	62	40½	24
Jan	188½	151½	121	92	70½	50½
Feb	207½	172½	142½	113	90½	68
Jun	257	—	193½	—	142½	—
Puts						
Nov	8	14½	26	53½	90	139
Dec	25½	39	57	79	109	146
Jan	42½	56	76½	99	126	161
Feb	51½	67	86½	108½	137	167½
Jun	99	—	134½	—	182½	—

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat.	500	42	54	56	5	16	19½
(*533½)	550	12½	25	29½	23½	41	44½
Amstrad	280	14	24	31½	9	15	18½
(*284½)	300	6	15	22	20	25½	29
Barclays	700	55½	73	90	4½	19	24½
(*745)	750	21	41	50½	21½	41	46½
Blue Circ	280	20	29½	32	4	9½	16
(*292½)	300	9	19	22	13	18½	26
Br Gas	220	20½	26	28½	2½	5	8
(*236)	240	7½	14	17½	10	12½	17½
Dixons	360	34	43	51½	3	10	15
(*387½)	390	14	25	34	13½	22	25
Forte	240	18½	25	28	2	6	9
(*254)	260	6½	13	16½	10	14½	18
Tarmac	80	6½	10½	12	2½	4½	7
(*82½)	90	2	6	7½	8	10	12½
Hillsdwn	160	5½	10	12	5	7½	12½
(*161½)	180	0½	3	4½	21½	21½	27
Lonrho	140	16½	18½	21	1	4	4½
(*154½)	160	4	7½	11	8½	15	13½
Sears	100	6	9	10½	2	3½	5½
(*103)	110	1½	4	5½	7½	9	11
Thrn Eml	1450	55½	91	126	35½	51½	55
(*1462½)	1500	32	66½	101½	63	78	79
Tomkins	240	14	20½	26	4	8½	11
(*249½)	260	3	11	16	14	19	21
TSB	360	25	29½	35½	4	12½	14½
(*381)	390	7	10	17	16	28	28½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Glaxo Well	850	47½	62	74	16	32½	39½
(*868½)	900	22½	35½	49½	41½	57½	65
HSBC	900	70½	94	105½	17½	30½	40
(*942)	950	41	65	78	36½	62½	72
Reuter	550	44½	57	66½	12	20	25½
(*576½)	600	19	30½	43	34	43½	49½

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Royal Ins.	390	22½	32½	40½	15	23	34
(*391½)	420	13	19½	25½	33	40½	52

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Fisons	260	5	5	5½	0½	1	0½
(*264)	280	0	0	0	18	18	20

	Series	Calls Nov	Calls Feb	Calls May	Puts Nov	Puts Feb	Puts May
Eastern Gp	950	27	30½	29	0½	0½	1
(*975½)	1000	0½	0½	0½	24½	30	31

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Natl Pwr	460	32	42½	55½	4½	10½	16
(*498)	500	9½	21	31½	20½	26½	34
Scot Pwr	330	25½	30	37	3½	8½	10
(*349½)	360	5	13	20½	15	23	24

November 2, 1995 Tot: 19315 Call: 9998 Put: 10317 FT-SE Call: 2418 Put: 3528

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 68133	Dec 95	3545.0	3562.0	3524.0	3536.0	9879
	Mar 96	3580.5	3588.0	3565.0	3564.0	81
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3537	Dec 95				3910.0	0
	Mar 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 335536	Dec 95	93.37	93.39	93.35	93.38	6727
	Mar 96	93.48	93.52	93.47	93.50	16717
	Jun 96	93.46	93.50	93.45	93.49	7058
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95				94.27	0
	Mar 96				94.65	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 807652	Dec 95	96.00	96.01	95.96	95.96	32503
	Mar 96	96.17	96.19	96.15	96.17	40643
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 106298	Dec 95	107-02	107-30	107-02	107-14	50815
	Mar 96	106-24	106-31	106-24	106-28	409
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	121.75	121.85	121.58	121.61	2190
	Mar 96	120.42	120.48	120.24	120.26	501
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 206907	Dec 95	96.85	97.04	96.80	96.94	108665
	Mar 96	96.33	96.38	96.22	96.24	1209
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 19777	Dec 95	94.45	94.45	94.41	94.41	1299
	Mar 96	94.55	94.57	94.54	94.55	729
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 49181	Dec 95	98.03	98.03	97.93	97.93	9585
	Mar 96	98.12	98.12	98.05	98.06	5733
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 47495	Dec 95	102.96	103.15	102.74	102.82	33985
	Mar 96	102.60	102.60	102.40	102.41	589

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high. 7¼ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6 11/16
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6 9/16 . 3 mth 6 9/16 . Sell: 2 mth 6½ ; 3 mth: 6½ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6¾-6 11/16	6 11/16-6⅝	6 21/32-6⅝	6⅝-6½	
Sterling Money Rates:	6 25/32-6 21/32	6 23/32-6 21/32	6 25/32-6 11/16	6 25/32-6 11/16	6 27/32-6 11/16
Interbank:	6 25/32-6 21/32	6 23/32-6 21/32	6 25/32-6 11/16	6 25/32-6 11/16	6 27/32-6 11/16

Overnight: open 6¾, close 7 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	6¾	n/a	6¾	6¾	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6 11/16-6⅝	6 11/16-6⅝	6 11/16-6⅝	6 11/16-6 9/16	6 11/16-6 9/16
Dollar CDs:	5.71	n/a	5.78	5.62	5.62
Building Society CDs:	6 25/32-6 21/32	6 23/32-6 21/32	6 25/32-6 21/32	6 11/16-6⅝	6 11/16-6⅝

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5 13/16-5 11/16	5 13/16-5 11/16	5¾-5⅝	5 11/16-5 9/16	5½-4¼
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅞	4 1/16-3 15/16	4 1/16-3 15/16	4 1/16-3 15/16	4½-3½
French Franc:	6⅝-6½	6 9/16-6 7/16	6½-6⅜	6¼-5⅞	7½-5½
Swiss Franc:	2 3/16-1 15/16	2-1⅞	2 1/16-1 15/16	2 1/16-1 15/16	2½-1½
Yen:	½-⅜	⅝-½	⅝-½	⅝-½	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.20-382.50 **Close:** $382.30-382.60 **High:** $382.30-382.60
Low: $381.60-382.10 **AM:** $382.20 **PM:** $382.05

Krugerrand: $383.00-385.00 (£242.00-244.00)

Platinum: $407.75 (£257.75) **Silver:** $5.30 (£3.345) **Palladium:** $135.65 (£85.75)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Nov 2	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4997-2.5145	2.5112-2.5145	½-⅜pr	1¼-1⅛pr
Brussels	45.680-46.170	46.070-46.170	11-8pr	32-26pr
Copenhagen	8.6240-8.7060	8.6630-8.7060	1-½pr	2½-1½pr
Dublin	0.9728-0.9809	0.9784-0.9809	11-8pr	26-22pr
Frankfurt	2.2213-2.2446	2.2415-2.2446	½-⅜pr	1½-1⅜pr
Lisbon	234.20-235.99	235.33-235.99	37-65ds	127-172ds
Madrid	192.79-193.83	193.54-193.83	41-51ds	139-156ds
Milan	2515.7-2528.6	2524.5-2528.6	7-9ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.1015-2.1333	2.1213-2.1244	0.10-0.02pr	0.19-0.08pr
New York	1.5754-1.5820	1.5810-1.5820	0.12-0.10pr	0.31-0.28pr
Oslo	9.8290-9.9090	9.8930-9.9090	1½-1pr	4-3½pr
Paris	7.7150-7.7590	7.7450-7.7590	½-⅛pr	½-⅛pr
Stockholm	10.427-10.530	10.507-10.530	⅛-⅜ds	⅛-⅜ds
Tokyo	160.81-163.82	163.54-163.82	1-½pr	1¾-1½pr
Vienna	15.630-15.801	15.774-15.801	⅝-⅛pr	1-¼pr
Zurich	1.7899-1.8067	1.8030-1.8067	⅞-½pr	2½-2pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds

DOLLAR RATES

Australia 1.3182-1.3190
Austria 9.97-9.98
Belgium (Com) 29.14-29.15
Canada 1.3493-1.3503
Denmark 5.4965-5.4995
France 4.8970-4.8980
Germany 1.4177-1.4182
Hong Kong 7.7317-7.7327
Ireland 1.6159-1.6179
Italy 1593.60-1595.10
Japan 103.47-103.54
Malaysia 2.5453-2.5463
Netherlands 1.5880-1.5885
Norway 6.2535-6.2572
Portugal 148.97-148.07
Singapore 1.4160-1.4170
Spain 122.38-122.46
Sweden 6.6433-6.6500
Switzerland 1.1410-1.1420

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso* 1.5812-1.5838
Australia dollar 2.0836-2.0863
Bahrain dinar 0.5885-0.6005
Brazil real* 1.5214-1.5256
China yuan .... 12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound 0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka 6.6800-6.7960
Greece drachma 364.50-371.50
Hong Kong dollar 12.2207-12.2300
India rupee 54.19-55.15
Indonesia rupiah 3560.00-3628.60
Kuwait dinar KD 0.4690-0.4790
Malaysia ringgit 4.0234-4.0275
New Zealand dollar 2.4076-2.4110
Pakistan rupee .... 54.07 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal 5.6825-5.8065
Singapore dollar 2.2391-2.2411
S Africa rand (com) 5.7020-5.8040
U A E dirham 5.7325-5.8565
*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3I	529	Legal & Gn	609
ASDA Gp	37,000	Lloyds Bk	5,000
Abbey Ntl	2,000	London Elect	377
Allied Dom	1,500	Marks Spr	11,000
Argyll Gp	17,000	Mid Elec	12
Arjo Wggns	1,900	NatWst Bk	2,600
AB Foods	234	Nat Power	834
BAA	4,800	NW Water	1,100
BAT Inds	3,000	P & O	2,000
BOC	1,100	Pearson	1,100
BP	5,400	PowerGen	701
BSkyB	8,000	Prudential	11,000
BTR	4,600	REXAM	7,700
BT	4,300	RMC	308
Bk of Scot	1,000	RTZ	2,300
Barclays	4,200	Rank Org	3,600
Bass	447	Reckitt Col	225
Blue Circle	2,800	Redland	1,500
Boots	7,300	Reed Intl	492
BAc	2,100	Rentokil	556
BA	3,900	Reuters	909
Brit Gas	4,400	Rolls Royce	1,300
Brit Steel	4,800	Royal Ins	1,300
Burmah Cstl	890	Ryl Bk Scot	2,800
Cable Wire	6,500	Sainsbury	9,500
Cadbury	2,000	Schroders	67
Carlton Cms	1,700	Scot & New	279
Cm Union	1,700	Scot Power	1,100
Cookson	889	Sears	14,000
Courtaulds	98	Svrn Trent	277
De La Rue	349	Shell Trans	10,000
Enterpr Oil	988	Siebe	877
Forte	5,700	SmKl Bch	1,800
GKN	275	Smith Nph	751
GRE	3,000	Sthern Elec	46
GUS	2,700	Std Chartd	4,900
Gen Acc	1,300	Sun Allnce	3,100
Gen Elec	3,900	TI Gp	66
Glaxo Well	5,900	TSB	3,900
Granada	3,900	Tate & Lyle	1,700
Grand Met	2,800	Tesco	18,000
Guinness	1,100	Thames W	830
HSBC	509	Thrn EMI	1,100
Hanson	7,800	Tomkins	1,200
ICI	1,900	Unilever	1,300
Inchcape	3,100	Vodafone	2,900
Kingfisher	908	Whitbread	1,100
LASMO	3,100	Wllms Hld	319
Ladbroke	2,900	Wolseley	325
Land Secs	425	Zeneca	577

WALL STREET

	Nov 2 midday	Nov 1 close
AMP Inc	38½	39
AMR Corp	68½	66½
AT & T	63½	63½
Abbott Labs	39	39½
Advanced Micro	23½	22½
Aetna Life	71½	71½
Ahmanson (HF)	25½	25
Air Prod & Chem	54½	53½
Albertson's	32½	32½
Alcan Alumnm	32½	31½
Alco Standard	87½	87½
Allied Signal	42½	42
Alum Co of Am	50½	51
Amax Gold Inc	5½	5½
Amerada Hess	46½	46½
Amer Brands	42	42
Amer El Power	38½	38½
Amer Express	41½	41
Amer Genl Corp	32½	32½
Amer Home Pr	87½	87½
Amer Intl	86½	85
Amer Stores	30	29½
Ameritech	54½	54
Amoco	63½	64
Anheuser-Busch	63½	64½
Apple Computer	36½	36½
Archer Daniels	16½	16½
Armco	6	6
Armstrng Wrld	59½	58½
Asarco	32½	32½
Ashland Oil	31½	31½
Atl Richfield	106½	105½
Auto Data Pro	71½	70½
Avery Dennison	44½	44½
Avon Products	71½	71½
Baker Hughes	19	19½
Baltim Gas & El	27½	27½
Banc One	35½	34½
BankAmerica	59½	58½
Bank of NY	43½	43½
Bankers Tr NY	64½	64½
Barnett Banks	56	55½
Bausch & Lomb	35½	35½
Baxter Intl	38½	38½
Becton Dicknsn	65½	66½
Bell Atlantic	64½	63½
Bell Industries	21	21
BellSouth	77½	76½
Black & Decker	34½	34½
Block (H&R)	43½	42½
Boeing	69½	68
Boise Cascade	36½	34½
Bristol Myrs Sq	77½	77½
Browning Ferris	29½	29½
Brunswick	19½	19½
Burlington Nthn	82½	82½
CBS	80½	80½
CNA Financial	117½	116½
CPC Intl	67	66½
CSX	84½	82½
Campbell Soup	52½	52
Can Pacific	15½	15½
Cptl Cities ABC	118½	118½
Carolina Pwr	33½	33½
Caterpillar	56½	56½
Central & SW	27	27½
Champion Intl	51	52½
Chase Manhat	59½	58½
Chemical Bk	59½	58½
Chevron Corp	47½	47½
Chrysler	51	50½
Chubb Corp	91½	91½
Cigna Corp	104½	104½
Citicorp	67½	67½
Clorox	72½	71½
Coastal Corp	32	32
Coca Cola	71½	71½
Colgate-Palmolive	70½	69½
Columbia Gas	38½	39
Compaq Comp	55½	55½
Comp Ass Intl	55½	55½
Conagra	38½	38½
Conrail	68½	67½
Cons Edison	30½	30½
Cons Nat Gas	39½	39½
Cooper Inds	33½	33
Corestates	37½	36½
Corning Inc	26	25½
Crown Cork	34½	34½
Dana Corp	30½	29½
Dayton Hudson	72½	68½
Deere	89½	89
Delta Air Lines	67½	65½
Deluxe Corp	27½	27½
Detroit Edison	34½	34½
Digital Equip	56½	54½
Dillard Dept St	29½	29½
Disney (Walt)	57½	57
Dominion Res	40½	40½
Donnelley (RR)	37½	37½
Dover Corp	38½	38½
Dow Chemical	67½	67½
Dow Jones	36	35½
Dresser	21½	21½
Duke Power	44½	44½
Dun & Bradstreet	60½	60½
Du Pont	62	61½
Eastman Kodak	63½	63½
Eaton Corp	51½	51½
Emerson Elec	74	72½

	Nov 2 midday	Nov 1 close
Engelhard Corp	24½	24½
Enron Corp	35½	34½
Entergy	28½	28½
Ethyl Corp	11½	11½
Exxon	76½	76½
FMC Corp	72½	72½
FPL Group	42½	42½
Federal Express	83	81½
Fed Nat Mtge	107½	108½
First Chicago	69½	69½
First Interstate	129	129½
First Union Rlty	7½	7½
Fleet Finl Grp	38½	38½
Fluor Corp	55	55½
Ford Motor	28½	28½
GTE Corp	42	41½
Gannett	55½	54½
Gap Inc Del	41½	39½
Gen Dynamics	55½	55½
Gen Electric	63½	62½
Gen Mills	56½	57
Gen Motors	44	43½
Gen Reinsurance	152½	146½
Gen Signal	31½	31½
Genuine Parts	39	39½
Georgia Pac	82½	82½
Gillette	48½	48½
Glaxo Wellc ADR	27½	26½
Goodrich (BF)	67½	67½
Goodyear Tire	38	38½
Grace (W&R)	56½	56½
Grt Atl Pac Tea	20½	20½
Great Wstn Fin	24½	23½
Halliburton	41½	42
Harcourt General	39½	40
Heinz (HJ)	47½	46½
Hercules	54½	53½
Hershey Foods	59½	59½
Hewlett Packard	93½	93
Hilton Hotels	67½	67½
Home Depot	39½	37½
Homestake Mine	15½	15½
Honeywell	42½	42
Household Intl	57	56½
Houston Inds	47	46½
Humana	22	22½
ITT Corp	122	122½
Illinois Tool	57½	57½
Illinova	28½	28½
INCO	34½	34
Ingersoll Rand	36½	36½
Inland Steel	22½	22½
Intel Corp	72½	70½
IBM	99½	96½
Intl Flav & Fr	49	48
Intl Paper	36½	36½
James River Va	32½	32½
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	81½	81½
Kellogg	73½	73½
Kerr-McGee	55½	55½
Kimberly-Clark	72½	71½
Kmart	8½	8½
Knight-Ridder	57½	57½
Lilly (Eli)	96½	97½
Limited Inc	19½	19½
Lincoln Nat	45½	45½
Litton	40½	40½
Liz Claiborne	28½	27½
Lockheed Martin	68½	67½
Louisiana Pac	24½	24½
MCI Comm	25½	25
Marriott Int	37½	37½
Marsh & McLnn	83½	83½
Masco Corp	28½	29½
May Dept St	41½	39½
Maytag Corp	19½	19½
McDonalds	41	41½
McDonnell D	92	91½
McGraw Hill	82½	82½
Mead Corp	58½	57½
Medtronic	59½	59½
Mellon Bk	51½	50½
Melville Corp	32	31½
Merck Inc	56	57
Merrill Lynch	57½	59
Microsoft	100½	98½
Minnesota Mine	56½	56½
Mobil Corp	101½	102½
Monsanto	105½	105½
Morgan (JP)	77½	77½
Motorola Inc	66½	64½
Natl Semi	24½	23½
Natl Service Ind	29½	29½
Navistar Int	11½	10½
NBD Bancorp	39½	39½
NY Times A	29½	29½
Newmont Mng	36½	36½
Niag Mohawk	10½	11
Nike B	57½	57½
NL Industries	13½	13½
Noram Energy	7½	7½
Nordstrom	39½	39½
Norfolk Sthrn	76	74½
Nthn State Pwr	47½	47½
Norwest Corp	30½	30½
Nynex Corp	49	48½
Occidental Pet	21½	21½
Ohio Edison	22½	22½
Oracle	45½	44½
Oryx Energy Co	11½	11½

	Nov 2 midday	Nov 1 close
Owens Corning	42½	42½
PPG Industries	43½	42½
PNC Bank	27½	26½
PP&L Res	22½	22½
Paccar Inc	41½	42
Pacificorp	19	19
Pac Enterprises	25½	25½
Pac Gas & Elect	29½	29½
Pac Telesis	31	30½
Pall Corp	24½	23½
Panhandle East	26	25½
Peco Energy	29½	29½
Penney (JC)	42½	42½
Pennzoil	38	37½
Pepsico	52½	52½
Pfizer	57½	59½
Phelps Dodge	63½	63½
Philip Morris	84½	84½
Phillips Pet	31½	32½
Pitney Bowes	43½	43½
Polaroid	42½	42½
PriceCostco	17½	17½
Procter & Gmbl	83	82½
Providian	39½	39½
Pub Serv E & G	29½	29½
Quaker Oats	34	34½
Ralston Purina	62½	60½
Raychem Corp	47½	47½
Raytheon	43½	43½
Reebok Intl	34½	34
Reynolds Metals	52½	51½
Roadway Srvcs	46	44½
Rockwell Intl	44½	44½
Rohm & Haas	56½	55½
Royal Dutch	122½	124
Rubbermaid	26½	26½
SBC Comms	57	56½
Safeco Corp	67½	67½
St Paul's Cos	51½	51½
Salomon Inc	37½	37½
Sara Lee Corp	29½	29½
Scecorp	17½	17½
Schering Plough	54	54½
Schlumberger	62½	62½
Scott Paper	52½	52½
Seagram	36½	35½
Sears Roebuck	35½	34½
Shell Trans	69½	71½
Sherwin Wllms	37	37½
Skyline Corp	18	17½
Snap-On-Tools	42½	42½
Southern Co	23½	23½
Sprint Corp	38½	38½
Stanley Works	47½	47½
Sun Company	28½	28½
Sun Microsys	78½	76½
Suntrust	65½	65½
Supervalu	31	30½
Sysco Corp	30½	30½
TRW Inc	64½	65½
TCC Inds	2½	2½
Tandem Comp	11½	11½
Tandy Corp	46½	48½
Teledyne	24½	24½
Temple Inland	44½	44½
Tenneco	44½	44
Texaco	68½	68½
Texas Inst	66½	66
Texas Utilities	37	36½
Textron	69½	68½
Time Warner	37	37
Times-Mirror A	28½	28½
Timken	40½	40½
Torchmark	41½	41½
Toys R Us	23	22½
Transamerica	69½	68½
Travelers	52½	51½
Tribune	62½	62½
Tyco Labs	62½	61½
UST Inc	30½	30½
UAL	181½	177½
US Inds	15½	14½
USX Marathon	17½	17½
Unicom	33½	33½
Unilever NV	130½	130½
Union Camp	48½	49½
Union Carbide	38	38
Union Pacific	64½	63½
Unisys Corp	5½	5½
USAIR Group	14	13½
USF&G Corp	16½	16½
US Life	29½	27½
US West Comm	29½	29½
United Tech	89½	88½
Unocal Corp	26½	26½
Upjohn	50½	50½
VF Corp	48½	48½
WMX Tech	29½	29
Wal-Mart Stores	22½	22½
Warner-Lambert	86½	86½
Wells Fargo	213½	211½
Westinghouse El	14	14
Weyerhaeuser	43½	44½
Whirlpool	54	52½
Whitman	21½	21½
Winn Dixie	66½	65½
Woolworth	14½	14½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	49½	48½
Xerox	130½	129½
Yellow Corp	13½	13½

صكرا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

◆

Called to account

AS WE always suspected, securities fraud knows no boundaries. The Securities and Exchange Commission in the US has filed a complaint against a jail inmate for running scams while serving a four-month spell in Allenwood Federal Prison for securities fraud. During his sentence, Anthony Sarivola, said to be a former Mafiosi known as "Tony Limo", is alleged to have made at least $1 million from falsifying his company's value and, incidentally, defrauded another inmate of $140,000 on another securities scam. He is said to have accomplished all this by brazenly using the prison telephone on which all conversations are recorded (but, apparently, not monitored).

All change

NO JOKES about "fares, please", but the old Victoria bus garage, in Wilton Road, vacated by LRT in March 1994, is getting a new lease of life. J Sainsbury, the food retailer, in a joint venture with Network Housing Association, plans to turn the derelict garage into a supermarket with 150 apartments.

Dress code

NOW that Deutsche Bank has decided to concentrate its investment banking in the City around its Morgan Grenfell subsidiary, certain of the Frankfurt staff due to transfer to London are fearful that their tutonic dress sense will suffer when they move. Many of them perceive the "typical" London dress sense as polyester-cotton shirts and man-made fibre suits. As Londoners might reply: "The thought of all those German towels being laid out in City gardens is too ghastly to contemplate."

"Unfortunately I put what I saved into their shares"

Tulk line

JEREMY TULK-HART whose first City job was with Colegrave (later Grenfell Colegrave) in 1968, has been given a rousing farewell from Smith New Court. Known as Tulk, he joined SNC in January 1987, and was latterly head of UK syndication. He was also a SNC main board director until the marriage with Merrill Lynch. Tulk's famed remark to colleagues on BT's initial share issue in November 1984, was: "Stop it. You don't have to push this one. It will happen naturally."

Asda thin cats

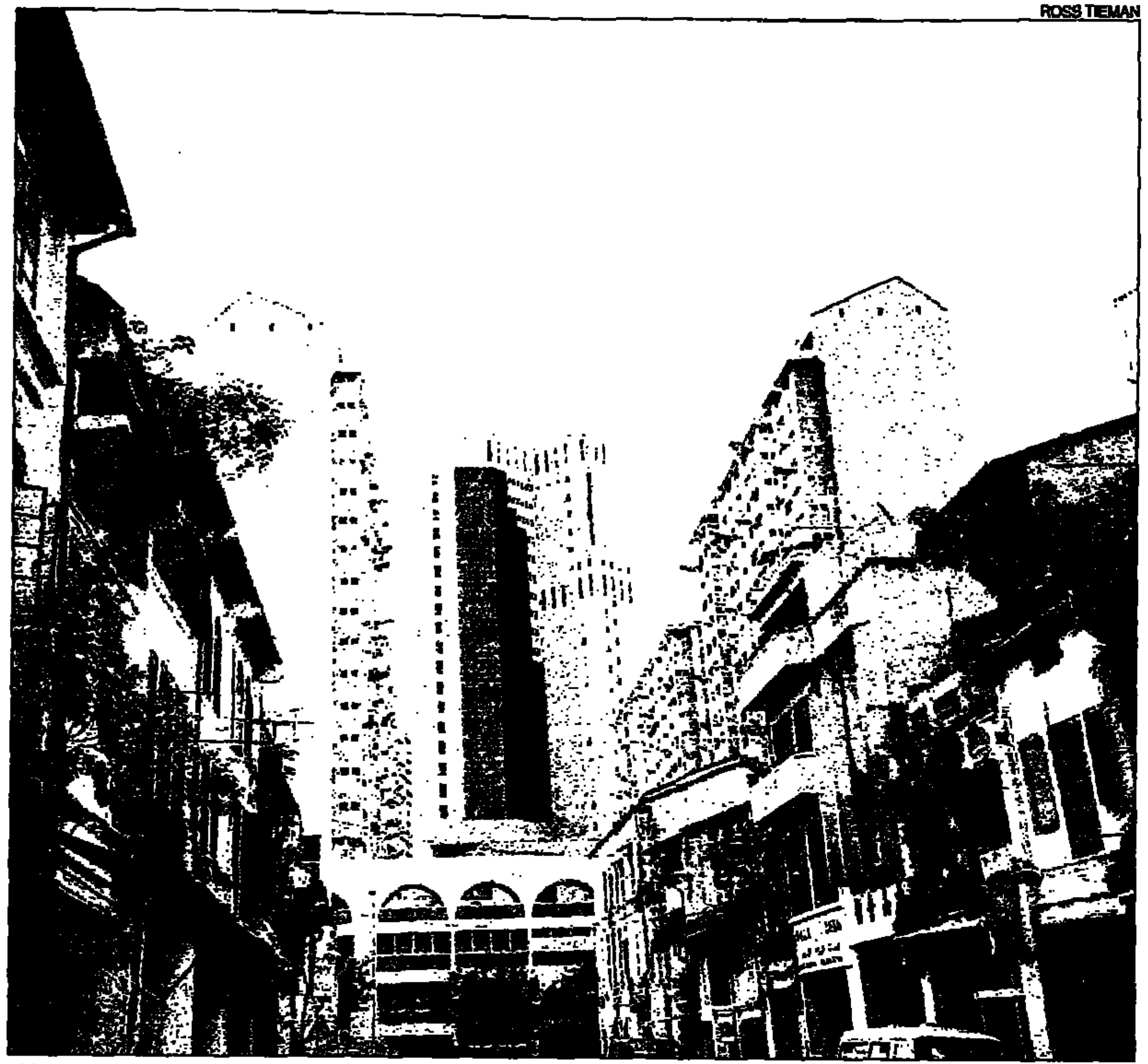
KAY EVERY, a secrutiy attendant at Asda and a recipient of chief executive Archie Norman's largesse in granting staff options, has penned the following ahead of Budget Day.

I'm not a fat cat, just a skinny kitten,
I can't understand why I've been bitten.
Please, Mr Chancellor, don't you see?
It's big fat cats you want — not little me.
Archie gave us a chance to save in his scheme,
With the possibility for some extra cream.
A reward, you see, for a job really well done,
Asda back on its feet, second to none.
So, come on, Chancellor, don't be mean. Leave us thin cats our saucer of cream.

COLIN CAMPBELL

China builds a city in the style of Singapore

Ross Tieman on the island state's formidable plan to export its own success


ROSS TIEMAN

Singapore — a success story to be exported as Singapore II. Singapore expertise is also going to Vietnam and Burma

A $60 billion reservoir of spare cash is fueling Singapore's remarkable project to build a replica of itself in mainland China.

Singapore II is under construction at Suzhou, 50 miles west of Shanghai. Under a government-to-government contract, a consortium of Singaporean and Chinese interests has teamed up to develop a new $30 billion industrial township of 600,000 people.

If it works, the formula will be rolled out across the continent. The Singapore Economic Development Board has already identified projects for state-backed industrial estates at Bintang, Indonesia; near Hanoi in north Vietnam; and at Bangalore, India, which could be refined and upgraded to match the Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP) in scale.

Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, says the scale of the Suzhou project is so great that his country is too small to take on more than one such project at a time. Singapore could be in a strong position to start a second Suzhou-type project in two or three years time, once the foundations are well laid, he says. "But if SIP fails, we fail everywhere in China."

Suzhou is an experiment in social and economic engineering of extraordinary scale. Hundreds of Singaporean officials and businessmen have been flown to southern China to assist in the development of the 70 square-kilometre site. From now until completion, there will be 60 Chinese officials living in Singapore at any one time, learning how to run modern utility services and to accommodate the demands of Western-style business.

Piggy-backing on Singapore's formidable contacts, organisational expertise and property development cash, several British companies have already undertaken to use Suzhou as a gateway to the burgeoning consumer and industrial markets of southern China.

Keppel Integrated (KI), the quoted Singapore conglomerate that forms one of the project's linchpins, has just completed the first stage of a 50MW power station to supply the town. A large chunk of electricity demand will come from a $25 million industrial gases plant, being developed in partnership between KI and Britain's BOC Group, which is scheduled to begin operations next year.

Another key investor is Royal Dutch/Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil company, which is working with Keppel to build a $40 million liquefied petroleum gas facility.

The pilot model for Suzhou was Batam, the Indonesian island visible from Singapore where 40 foreign companies have now been attracted to a 500-hectare, Singaporean-run, industrial estate. But the motives are very different.

The development of Batam was largely a response to the growing pressure on land in Singapore, where three million people jostle for space and resources on an island covering just 646 square kilometres. Suzhou, by contrast, is part of a government plan to create an external economy. For Singapore's economy has become a victim of its own success.

In the 30 years since independence from Britain, gross domestic product per head has risen from a few hundred dollars a year to a projected $25,981 this year. Next year, GDP per head in Singapore is expected to exceed $28,400, putting it on a par with the United States. Unlike Americans, Singaporeans are inveterate savers. Thrift, investment and competitiveness are government obsessions. Every worker is obliged to contribute part of his salary to a compulsory savings scheme, the Central Provident Fund. In total, Singaporeans save on average 46 per cent of earnings, the highest savings ratio in the world. For decades, these savings have provided a source of cheap capital for industry and construction of infrastructure in this remarkable city state.

Since 1990, rising prosperity has accelerated the flood of funds into the bank vaults. At the same time, economic success has turned the Singapore dollar into a hard currency, appreciating in value by 5 per cent a year. Economists in Singapore believe Overseas Chinese, who number some 60 million, are now being joined by the newly prosperous in mainland China in using the Singapore dollar as a safe haven for their savings.

The current account has now reached 20 per cent of GDP, a level reckoned to be unsustainable. Unless the Government takes action, say the economists, Singapore's much-vaunted place at number two after the United States in the world competitiveness league table is at risk. Asset price inflation has already hit free-market housing. Uncontrolled rents rose up to 4 per cent last year. Retail sales in Singapore's polished-marble shopping plazas are falling because tourists find them too expensive.

> Suzhou is part of a government plan to create an external economy

Discouraging saving would be anathema to a government obsessed by financial prudence. The official response, therefore, has been to promote overseas investment.

Singapore money is also leading the drive into the region's new frontier economies of Vietnam and Burma. Both countries benefit from high levels of literacy and sophisticated social organisation. Like China, both have supposedly communist governments pursuing newly liberal policies. The existence of local Chinese communities provides a bridgehead, together with the ample evidence of Singapore's success in turning inward investment into prosperity for its people, albeit with a widening wealth gap.

In Burma, Ministry of National Planning figures show Singapore has reached second place in the league table of inward investors, providing a total of $548.3 million. Britain ranked first at $642.5 million. But while British money is largely targeted at the development of oil and gas reserves, the Singaporeans, as so often elsewhere in the region, are financing the development of hotels and tourism.

Singapore's administration lives in a perpetual crisis of angst, lest the miracle of economic development should grind to a halt. Some Singaporeans, and the country's Government, fear that three decades of prosperity have spawned a younger generation that is soft and spoiled, less willing to work and resentful of the state's overpowering intrusion in everyday life.

Families in Suzhou may welcome the chance to better their lot by building a second Singapore, but there is a limit to resolving its problems by exporting them.

Singapore's leaders, and its citizens, have to figure out how to adapt to living in a maturing economy surrounded by newly industrialising nations. Singapore II may leave the way open for sequels, but many questions over the plot remain unanswered.

Women on the move tire of travel snubs

Hotels and airlines often fail female clients. **Marianne Curphey** reports

Mistaken for prostitutes in hotels, ignored in restaurants and assumed to be secretaries on airlines — life is tough for a businesswoman, a new survey has found.

Although women now make up half of all travelling executives, they still feel neglected and patronised by cabin crews, waiters and car-hire companies.

Too often they are the subject of unwelcome male attention in bars, and, when taking a male client to dinner, find that the bill is presented to him.

The results of a study of the lifestyle of travelling businesswomen are gloomy. In spite of rapid growth in the number of female executives away on business, few travel or accommodation companies have adjusted their policies accordingly.

The survey, by Chambers Travel, the corporate travel management company, found that 84 per cent of women took room service in hotels, because they needed to work or because they felt vulnerable or patronised in hotel restaurants.

Only a third thought that women-only floors were a good idea in hotels, because most regarded them as an added security risk that might attract prowlers.

A common complaint was that reception staff shout out room numbers, thus informing the entire lobby where the female guest was staying. One survey respondent said: "I want the same respect and consideration as men. All staff should assume all single women to be VIP guests. Mistakes will not then occur." Security was the most important issue, and informal introductions to other female guests the least, the survey found.

Airlines fared little better. Nearly half of respondents believed that cabin crew treated men better, and 40 per cent said that more upgrades went to men than women because they complained more.

"Attitude. Attitude. Attitude. Stewardesses virtually ignore or are rude to us," one female traveller claimed.

A picture emerges of women chosing an airline primarily for convenience of scheduling, rather than price. Only 30 per cent felt able to name an airline they believed catered for the businesswoman. Of these, both Virgin and British Airways received 10 per cent of the response.

Seventy per cent of the 200 women surveyed were over 31, and 60 per cent earned more than £36,000 a year. They were angry that car-hire companies often failed to provide safe pick-up points and assumed that women would want small, slow cars.

Janie Corbisiero, managing director of Chambers Travel, said: "The businesswoman traveller is not looking for a revolution, merely recognition. The vast majority of respondents are looking for 'equal respect' and a recognition that their needs, albeit marginal in some cases, are different."

Some airlines have tried to improve facilities, with Virgin offering free limousine transfers for all Upper Class passengers — a service particularly popular with women — as well as on-board beauty treatments and massages for both sexes.

> You do tend to feel vulnerable when you travel alone

British Airways, which says that 24 per cent of its long-haul business passengers are female, offers female chauffeurs and flexible meal arrangements as a result of women's requests.

Angie Giveon, managing director of the magazine *Executive Woman*, believes that airlines and hotels will only take women's needs seriously when they think that it will make money. "Some hotels seem to think all they have to do is put pink cotton wool balls in the bedrooms and women will be happy," she said.

Stephanie Lynn, president of the London Businesswomen's Network, says that women often chose small hotels, because the service is friendlier, and like to return to places where they are known.

"You do feel vulnerable when you travel alone and you just have to square your shoulders and keep your head up when you receive unwelcome attention," she says. "After all, no one wants to spend all their time in their hotel room. It would be nice to have someone on the staff to greet you and to whom you could turn if you had any problems."

BUSINESS LETTERS

T&N judgment

From Mr Andrew Spink

Sir, Your *Tempus* correspondent's description of T&N's management as "responsible" and "brave" (October 28) reveals a sadly one-sided outlook, as does his complaint that the company will be "hard-pressed to show its real potential while lawyers have a lien on its cash flow".

The "lien on its cash flow" arises not as a result of the actions of voracious plaintiffs' lawyers, but from T&N's own past failures to comply with the reasonable safety standards of the time, whilst at the same time generating substantial profits in the middle 50 years of this century from its use of asbestos. Those profits helped turn T&N into the successful multinational company we see today.

The conditions at the Armley factory during the 1930s, 40s and 50s, graphically described by so many witnesses during the trial, were such that Mr Justice Holland had little option but to conclude that T&N's subsidiary "made no serious effort to conform" to the then statutory requirements. Its shareholders may feel that it is only right in those circumstances that it should make adequate provision for, and pay, compensation to the victims of those failures.

T&N shareholders may also question the level of responsibility of a management which spent such vast sums of money defending the Armley actions in a manner criticised by Mr Justice Holland as "lamentable" and as "reflecting a wish to contest these claims by any means possible, legitimate or otherwise, so as to wear them down by attrition". Is this a "brave" use of company funds? Some may think not.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SPINK,
35 Essex Street, Temple, WC2.

Another job suggestion for Sir John Egan of BAA

From E. N. Addison

Sir, I notice in Business News (BAA overhaul far from a flight of fancy; November 1) that Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, is doing a job swap with Christine Stewart, who manages Terminal 3 at Heathrow.

However, I have a better idea for a job swap for Sir John, ie, would he like to be an ordinary passenger/customer at Heathrow or Gatwick?

He could then, for example, experience the half-mile walk on arriving from Copenhagen at Gatwick airport to get to the baggage reclaim area, which involves 11 corridors and numerous direction signs.

Or would he like to arrive at any of the far-flung gates at either Heathrow or Gatwick and find no trolley for hand luggage, duty-free bags, coats etc?

Or what about the often inoperative jetties which force passengers to disembark on rainy, snowy, windy, stormy days because we are one of the few major airports with uncovered aircraft steps.

I would suggest he has four or five days of this and, if possible, be accompanied by Sir Colin Marshall. That might teach them both some good lessons, as long as staff are unaware of their presence.

Yours faithfully,
E. N. ADDISON,
Chairman,
The Addison Tool Co,
Elliott House,
Victoria Road,
NW10.

Collapse of Lloyd's could be of some benefit to names

From John K. Nesbitt

Sir, Thank you for an excellent assessment of the problems now facing Lloyd's of London (Day of judgment looms for beleaguered Lloyd's names, October 31).

£16 billion is an impressive sum, particularly for a new and untested company to have at its disposal, but what of the quality of the underlying assets? Will all such assets be tangible and whose valuation will be accepted as impartial, true and fair?

The collapse of Lloyd's would undoubtedly have an adverse impact on managing agents and members' agents. Names might well benefit, however, as the cost of recovering liabilities from more than 30,000 names and providing individual proof of debt may well make the pursuit of names by a receiver impractical. An additional benefit would be an abrupt end to long tail claims.

Bankruptcy may well provide the relief so judiciously available to our American cousins under their Chapter 11 legislation.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN K. NESBITT,
Kerrich House,
Peartree Court, Old Orchards,
Lymington, Hampshire.

From John Neiger

Sir, I refer to the "landmark victory" in the Merrett case where the defendants were found guilty of negligence, withholding information etc (November 1).

Would someone kindly explain why Lloyd's is still aggressively seeking payment from names who have made losses in these circumstances when the on-going underwriters and agents who have a vested interest in the new Lloyd's are being awarded a two-year windfall profit.

Yours faithfully
JOHN NEIGER,
85 Ashton Lane,
Sale, Cheshire.

Director-General may have exceeded duties

From John L. T. Smith

Sir, Your *Business News* columnist, Pennington (October 26) suggests that Ms Clare Spottiswoode, Director-General of Gas Supply, may have exceeded her duties, as laid down in the 1986 Gas Act, and that her comments have resulted in a drop in gas share prices.

As a shareholder, I find these allegations very serious, and am wondering whether there is any action one can take (should there be an inquiry into her remarks?), as obviously, in this instance Ms Spottiswoode appears to have gone well over the top?

I appreciate that her major concern is the consumer, but if British Gas does go to the wall, which is even being suggested, several million customers will be without gas. What action will Ms Spottiswoode take then? Equally serious, the big City institutions, large pension funds and the private investor will be dealt a serious blow.

I find this absurd talk quite mind boggling from someone who should know better. The Minister, Mr Tim Eggar, should also remember there is an election round the corner.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. T. SMITH,
Bredon View,
Laverton,
Nr Broadway,
Worcestershire.

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Modest gains at the close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2755½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2646¼	+ 34¾	4.8	3.9
577½	413	Abbey Ntl	534	+ 5	4.5	10.7
330	250	Allied Irish	323	- 2	4.5	9.4
260	198	Aus New Z	264	- 2	5.3	7.9
4075	2531½	Bank America	3725	+ 87½		
270½	191½	Bank Scotland†	250	+ 1	3.1	11.1
772	557½	Barclays	745	- 7	3.9	10.2
425	259	Bk of Ireland	422	+ 1	2.9	8.5
526	412	Cater Allen	470		7.7	7.1
4662½	2450	Citicorp	4350	+ 125		
340½	216¼	Close Bros▼	316		3.4	
£162½	£129½	Commerzbk	£149¾	+ 52⅛	3.5	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1088¾	+ 34¾	0.5	
3231½	2775	Deutsche Bk	2918¾	+ 125	2.5	
681½	512½	Espirito Santo	712½	+ 15½	11.6	
1611	1129½	Fuji Bank Y	1190½	- 46¾	0.4	
490	395	Gerrard Ntl	444	- 1	6.5	14.1
252	180	Hambros	201		4.7	10.7
953	583	HSBC	942	- 6	3.7	12.2
947	578	HSBC HK	927½	- 4½	3.8	12.1
336	228	Irish Perm	333		3.6	7.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	423		5.2	23.5
145	85	King Shaxson	114	...	3.5	8.9
796	520	Lloyds	795	+ 9	4.2	12.2
592	479	Nat Aust Bk	537	- 2	7.1	9.2
669	454	Nat West	629	+ 4	4.5	9.8
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.5	7.4
67	44	Rea Brothers	45		2.6	16.0
569½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	515	+ 7	7.5	12.4
1478	909½	Schroders	1340	..	1.3	15.1
1185	833½	Schroders N/V	1108		1.6	15.5
110	81	Singer & Fried	106		4.3	11.0
529½	346	Stand Chart	517	+ 2	2.2	13.0
353	317	TSB	331	- 5	3.1	16.6
121	70	Union	103	- 2	3.6	
£145¼	£93½	Wells Fargo†	£133½	- 63½	2.2	
269½	211	Westpac	257½			
295	200	Wintrust	295		4.8	16.9

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
231	143	Accel Hldgs	209			0.4
679	497	Bass	668	+ 5	4.9	16.1
419	330	Boddington	419	+ 9	2.7	27.5
192	137	Burtonwd Brw	186		3.5	17.3
156	137	Eldridge P A	172		3.7	22.9
63	51	Fosters Brewing	62	- 1	4.8	
[illegible]	[illegible]	Fuller Sm 'A'	407		2.6	17.4
527	492	Greenalls Grp	500	+ 9	2.4	14.3
[illegible]	463	Greene King	638		2.7	17.1
294	245	Hardy Han	275		4.4	12.5
162	151	Mansfield	165		4.6	15.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Irish D	314		2.1	[illegible]
337	319	Marston	328		2.0	[illegible]
321	206	Morton Inns	304		2.1	[illegible]
543	331½	Morland	516		2.7	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	Pubmaster	7		3.3	
605	[illegible]	Regent Inns	572	+ 16	1.5	[illegible]

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

BUSINESS SERVICES

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
113½	88½	ABI Leis	100	.	5.2	11.5
575	535	Acton & Harvey	550		4.0	6.5
21	14	Amcorders	14		6.3	25.0
113	93	Appleyard	92	- 5	8.2	9.9
4½	3½	Acc Br Eng	3½	..	2.1	28.5
603	518	BSS Group	577		4.2	16.6
46	28	Bancd	33			
24½	15½	Beazers Powe	16½	.	7.6	8.1
35	12	Bogod 'A'	26	.	3.4	9.3
423	345	Brammer	442	- 17	3.8	17.0
31	18½	Boughend Gr	17		1.5	...
96	79	Brit Fittings	87		4.6	13.2
270	215	Caffyns	253	.	5.7	18.0
72	54	Central Mtr	67		5.1	18.2
60	35	Cook (DC)	56½	- 1½	3.5	8.3
233½	220	Cowie	230½	- 3½	4.2	12.2
155	125	Dag Motors	133	.	6.8	11.0
598	508	Dennans El	508	.	1.9	11.2
501	423	Diploma	435	.	4.0	14.3
332½	236	Electrocomponents	324		2.2	23.6
247	153	Eurodis Elec	236	.	2.2	16.3
225	118	Eurodollar	118		8.3	7.1
120	67	European Mtr	108		5.8	5.3
449	298	Evans Halshaw	298	- 20	6.5	9.2
695	512	Farnell Electr	659		1.9	19.5
72	48	File Inchar	66		6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	20		5.1	8.9
30	16	Glenchewton	25		7.4	
109	61	Gomorgst	85		3.3	14.1
172	145	Harris (Philip)	159		5.6	11.0
189	143	Headlam	185	..	2.9	16.2
554	398	Henlys	499½	- 2	2.5	18.5
121	81	Holders Tech	121	.	6.2	23.0
150	83	ISA Intl	141		1.4	15.4
430	274	Inchcape†	303	- 5	6.2	27.5
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	61		1.5	11.6
187	142	Kwik-Fit	175		3.3	15.0
355½	254½	Lex Service	314	- 4	5.7	16.7
195	146	Lookers	149		6.4	8.2
22	9	Malaya Grp	10½	+ ½	5.6	14.5
9½	5	Middlesex	8½	+ ½	0.7	20.1
71	37	Underbut	41			4.7
503	321	Scholl	460		1.5	16.5
363	76	Northamber	280	- 5	0.8	20.9
156	135	PCT	137		7.0	9.8
[illegible]	225	Pendragon	272½		3.9	14.2
166	123	Perry Grp	153	.	5.1	11.9
146	125	Quick Group	131		5.5	11.2
193	150	REA	168	- 3	3.0	20.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	Reece	3½	.		
77	48	Rotork	54		2.9	11.0
5½	2½	Russ Co	3½	- ½		
69½	37½	SEP Intl	60		2.5	20.0
17½	10	Sature	11	- ½		6.2
74½	58	TLS	66	- 2	3.5	11.2
266	226	Time Products	250		4.5	14.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	Vardy (Reg)	252	2	2.9	16.0
[illegible]	240	Wholesale Ftgs	303		2.6	18.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	Wilsons	74½		1.3	19.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	99	- 1	7.8	
97	69	Young (H)	89		5.1	13.6

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

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TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED

هكذا من الاصل

مكرر من الأصل

Companies 'hide fraud losses' from shareholders

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

CITY institutions are concealing fraud rather than reveal embarrassing losses to shareholders or competitors, according to the head of the City of London police and a senior fraud expert yesterday.

Speaking at the launch of a new police drive to educate companies to take crime prevention seriously Bill Taylor, the City police commissioner, said companies are also still not taking the simplest of measures to protect themselves. In many cases the fraudsters continued to use tried and tested methods. Banks remain the centre of attack.

Launching the leaflet *Fraudstop*, Mr Taylor said fraud cases in England and Wales last year handled by the Serious Fraud Office and the Crown Prosecution Service involved £10 billion. Large-scale fraud has risen over the past eight years. In 1994-95 the City force's own fraud squad dealt with cases involving nearly £200 million. Cases such as the Maxwell prosecution, Barings and BCCI were not included in the figures.

Mr Taylor said there was no way of quantifying how many companies were keeping their losses secret. More were coming forward, but he recognised companies might be unhappy to admit they had been duped. He said they should talk to the police, who could help the losers, information would stop others becoming victims and new methods would be identified.

A company might only be hit once "but it could be a big bite and be painful", he said. Time and again the fraud is a known method which could have been foiled by simple prevention. "People have systems in place and they fall into disuse," he said. Weaknesses appeared over the selection of employees or authorities for paying cash.

Peter Benson, chairman of Coopers & Lybrand's forensic accounting division, which is sponsoring a new leaflet on crime prevention, said clients often felt they had compelling reasons for silence. He said: "I suggest the immediate reaction of banks is to sweep it under the carpet and not tell anyone. They would rather everything was carried out behind closed doors." Companies would try to strike a deal with a crooked employee under which he was not prosecuted but sacked after revealing what he had done.

The leaflet warns companies are particularly at risk late on a working day before a public holiday or at other times when the institution is under great pressure. Potential employees should be subjected to tougher screening and offices should be checked to make sure key information is not left on computer screens or in waste bins.

DES JENSON

Ed Kirk, left, chairman of Frederick Cooper, and John Staite, finance director, with a range of company products yesterday

Cooper buys US kitchen tool firm

By Martin Barrow

FREDERICK COOPER, the coatings, architectural hardware and electrical products group, is expanding in America with the $5.97 million acquisition of Bonny Products Inc, a manufacturer of non-electrical kitchen tools and utensils.

Bonny, located in Washington, North Carolina, sells products through mass merchandisers and supermarket chains in America. It also has international distributors in 40 countries. The business earned profits of $1.18 million in 1994 on turnover of $12.9 million. At the year-end, net assets were $4.9 million.

Frederick Cooper yesterday announced a decline in group pre-tax profits, to £4 million, for the year to July 31, from £6.3 million in the previous 12 months, reflecting the cost of closures. Earnings per share fell to 3p, from 8.2p. However, the total dividend is lifted to 2.7p, from 2.5p, with a 1.9p final due on February 1. The shares rose 5p, to 59p.

Capital expenditure rose to £2.7 million, from £1.6 million.

Tokyo trade halt for Merrill

From Reuter
in Tokyo

JAPAN has ordered the Tokyo branch of Merrill Lynch, the US brokerage, to suspend trading of stocks on its own account for two days as punishment for violating trade rules. Kyosuke Shinozawa, the Vice-Finance Minister, said the suspension would start from next Tuesday.

The punishment had been expected after Japan's securities watchdog found that Merrill's Tokyo branch had made improper securities trades over nearly six years and recommended that the finance ministry take punitive steps.

The improper transactions involved trading of baskets of stocks which are usually part of an arbitrage using futures and options. If Merrill Lynch was underwriting a new issue for the issuer of one of the stocks in the basket, it would be subject to restrictions on trading in the stock.

Merrill Lynch said in New York last week that its actions complied with Tokyo Stock Exchange rules and practices followed by the industry internationally, although they may have been inconsistent with finance ministry policies.

Celsis goes deeper into red

By Christine Buckley

A PUSH into North America and other expansion reined back the benefits of a five-fold increase in sales for Celsis, the biotechnology group that specialises in bug detection.

It incurred a loss of £2.9 million for the six months to September 30. The figure, which came after sales and administration costs jumped 70 per cent, largely on the back of the establishment of overseas sales offices, took the group deeper into the red than at the same stage last year, when it incurred a loss of £2.2 million.

Its overseas expansion came with the creation of sales forces in Chicago and Princeton and also in Munich.

Research and development costs for the company, which has global partnership deals with several large healthcare groups, rose 34 per cent to £1.46 million, although part of that was offset by a grant backed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The group was upbeat about future prospects, especially a recently launched hygiene monitoring system for industrial use that has been developed in a venture with Lever Industrial, part of Unilever. Systemsure, the product of the association, is being projected as the smallest and most intelligent hygiene monitor.

The DTI-supported grant, worth £4 million over three years, will further strengthen the company's industrial expansion. The initiative is structured for a programme of nine research projects, which will be aimed at quality assurance testing for a range of industries.

No interim dividend was declared.

Azlan pulls ahead in first half

By Philip Pangalos

AZLAN GROUP, the fast growing computer products and services distributor, accompanied a surge in first-half profits with a £20.4 million cash call and plans to expand further in Europe through a Dutch acquisition.

After acquisitions in Italy, Germany, Denmark and France, Azlan has acquired Ronin, a network computing distributor based in Rotterdam in The Netherlands, for a maximum of £6.95 million in cash and shares. Azlan will pay an initial £1.95 million, with the balance of up to £5 million depending on Ronin's future profits. Ronin made a pre-tax profit of 500,000 guilders (£200,000) in 1994, on turnover of 41 million guilders.

The purchase will be part-funded from the proceeds of a £20.4 million open offer, fully underwritten by SBC Warburg, of 4.86 million shares, on a two-for-nine basis, at 440p a share. The balance of the proceeds will leave Azlan ungeared.

Azlan's shares have put on a sparkling performance in the past seven months, nearly quadrupling since the company signed distribution deals with IBM and Netscape. Yesterday, they advanced a further 22p to 480p, compared with a price of 220p when the company floated two years ago.

Strong growth in Europe helped pre-tax profits to jump 312 per cent to £4.45 million in the six months to September 30, on turnover ahead 93 per cent to £72.7 million.

The interim dividend is raised to 1.2p (1p), payable on January 31. Earnings were up 268 per cent to 13.6p (3.7p) a share.

Tempus, page 28

Bardon cuts debt with £72m sale

By Robert Boyd

BARDON, the international quarrying and aggregates group, is to sell Civil and Marine, the group's dredging company, for £72.3 million to ARC Marine, a subsidiary of Hanson. The disposal will reduce Bardon's gearing from 67 per cent to 45 per cent, below its 50 per cent target.

Civil and Marine was the subject of a £60 million writedown in 1993 but has performed well recently. The company made an operating profit of £5.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1994, and its net assets at that date were £65.9 million.

With the UK road market set to fall 15 to 25 per cent in 1996, the City recently expressed concern over Bardon's trading outlook. Borrowing, which stood at £246 million for the six months to the end of June, has been its main problem.

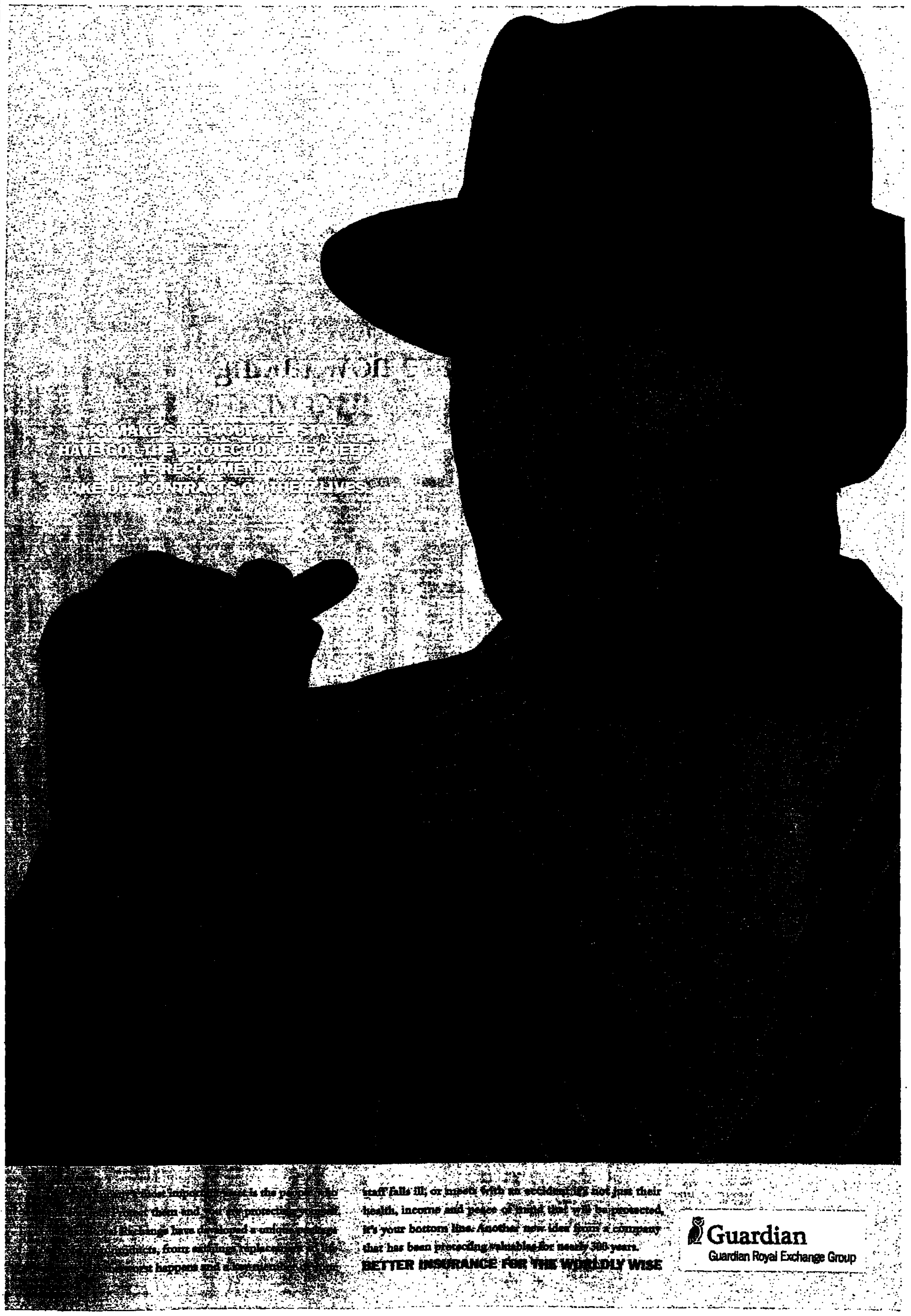
Bardon thinks Civil and Marine has less development potential relative to other core operations. The proceeds will be used to cut borrowings. Peter Tom, chief executive, said: "With a more robust balance sheet, we will have much greater flexibility in developing our four mainstream businesses."

However, the group said it is facing difficult trading conditions, much being dependent on whether the Government decides to maintain reasonable levels of investment in infrastructure and to encourage the flagging housing market.

David Snowdon, chairman of ARC, said: "This move increases our presence in Europe and gives us a firm footing in the important Thames market. C&M has a major presence in the London area, where we expect further growth."

The Civil and Marine fleet of one bulk carrier and four dredgers will run alongside ARC's 14 ships, consolidating ARC's position as Europe's leading producer of sea-dredged sand and gravel.

Tom: flexibility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01895 259 783				
Govland Amer	183.80	194.50†	+ 1.70	0.19
Govland Equity	281.50	278.30	- 1.108	2.21
Govland Euro	226.10	241.40	- 1.20	1.29
Govland Expt Bar	120.40	124.80		1.06
Govland Gilt	74.67	76.59	- 0.31	5.24
Govland Japan	161.80	171.20†	- 2.20	..
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	593.50	631.40†	- 0.90	2.70
General Inc	509.90	542.60†	- 2.50	2.70
UK Growth Acc	403.00	428.60†	- 0.60	2.92
UK Growth Inc	268.40	285.50†	- 0.30	2.92
Higher Inc Acc	747.60	795.40†	- 1.50	4.15
Higher Inc Inc	416.20	442.20†	- 0.60	4.15
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	200.70	211.90	- 0.90	5.69
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.26	97.46	- 0.46	5.69
Nth America	319.80	340.30†	- 2.30	..
Europe	307.40	327.10†	- 0.70	0.90
Brit Excell	80.66	85.81†	- 0.96	3.01
Brit Fndntls Acc	109.60	116.70†	- 0.30	4.75
Brit Fndntls Inc	76.77	81.68†	- 0.17	4.75
Global Oppts	91.45	96.87†	- 0.15	0.30
Balanced Acc	58.22	61.95†	- 0.12	3.00
Balanced Inc	55.72	59.29†	- 0.12	3.00
Japan Acc	42.96	45.71†	- 0.32	
Pac Basin Acc	363.80	387.10†	- 2.40	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	129.80	137.70	- 0.60	7.26
High Inc Equity	172.90	185.50†	- 0.49	4.23
Worldwide Bond	262.50	259.50†	- 0.50	4.67
Capital Growth				
American Growth	324.90	347.50	- 0.70	0.36
Asian Pacific	300.30	321.30	- 2.20	
Assets & Earnings	286.60	304.50†	- 0.50	2.80
Cmmdty & Energy	101.90	109.50	- 0.70	0.12
Euro Capital Inc	145.40	155.50	- 0.40	0.62
-do- Accum	155.90	166.70	- 0.30	0.62
General	237.30	272.70	- 0.40	3.04
Japan	112.80	120.40	- 1.50	
Mastertrust	147.50	157.90	- 0.50	1.50
US Emerging Cos	169.40	179.20	+ 1.20	
Ethical	71.76	76.34	- 0.12	2.51
International	119.80	127.40	- 0.40	0.71
Dividend & Growth	65.27	69.44	- 0.16	4.55
Global Gwth & Sec	69.57	74.27	- 0.07	2.86
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1951.00	2007.00	- 27.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	51.14	53.11†	- 0.50	0.58
Cash	50.29	50.29	- 0.01	5.60

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	90.57	96.69	+ 0.11	2.65
American Portfolio	164.58	171.00	+ 0.11	1.01
European Portfolio	109.66	116.33†	+ 0.20	0.58
High Income	50.73	50.83†	+ 0.14	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	63.55	67.59	- 0.50	..
Pacific Portfolio	138.92	149.36	- 1.06	1.48
UK Inc & Growth	83.07	88.05†	+ 0.12	3.04
Utility & Bond	56.78	56.93	- 0.04	8.52
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	707.18	717.86	- 2.22	4.43
Fxd Int Sec	154.14	154.76	+ 1.99	9.30
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	694.63	705.19	- 1.24	4.52
Investment Acc	530.59	531.06	- 5.43	
Fixed Int Inc	125.25	125.75	- 0.33	9.15
Fixed Int Acc	208.41	209.25	- 0.56	..
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 637 7567				
Intl Growth	117.35	129.72	.	
UK Income	110.56	120.00		6.30
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.24	92.12†	.	2.64
Beck Bio-Tech	36.54	40.15	- 0.77	
Acorn Ethical Tst	162.69	170.84		0.75
City Fst Assets	73.26	76.95†	...	2.12
City Fst America	94.25	98.97		
City Fst Intl	82.27	86.38†		1.38
City Fst Japan	138.50	145.75		
Frans Hse Cap	278.08	301.29		2.42
Frans Hse Inc	193.39	209.36		4.03
Buckley Wrld Grth	132.12	140.05†		
Fairmnt Cap Gth	138.27	145.65†	- 4.72	
Fairmount Intl	146.74	154.46†	- 6.64	..
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	55.44	58.22	- 0.05	2.01
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	54.62	57.95	- 0.07	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Grth	71.71	76.70	+ 0.41	
Atlas Mngd Grth	38.72	41.91	+ 0.15	0.60
Dragon Growth	65.62	70.18	- 0.30	0.98
Equity High Inc	85.85	91.91	+ 0.12	4.13
-do- Accum	119.19	127.61	+ 0.16	4.13
Extra Income Inc	26.11	27.49†	+ 0.09	7.57
Extra Income Acc	27.17	28.61	+ 0.10	7.57
European Grth	55.27	58.80	- 0.03	1.20
Evergreen	26.78	28.64	- 0.01	
General Equity	90.54	95.06	+ 0.15	3.03
Japan Growth	46.84	50.10	- 0.48	
Fdngrea Grth	54.93	58.97	- 0.16	2.89
Pref Sm Cos Inc	32.34	34.40†	+ 0.06	1.71

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	183.70	195.40	- 1.40	
Income	179.16	190.59	- 0.04	3.20
UK Growth	68.70	73.08	+ 0.33	0.48
International	79.39	84.45	- 0.16	0.07
Ecology	88.99	94.67†	- 0.33	1.14
European	143.28	152.35	- 0.33	
Far Eastern	293.20	311.90	- 0.10	.
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	98.58	102.00	- 0.30	7.54
Gilt Yield	117.30	123.80	- 0.70	6.87

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Equity Growth	76.19	80.92†	+ 0.22	0.74
N Amer Growth	113.95	121.04	+ 0.91	0.92
Special Sits Growth	23.35	24.84	+ 0.11	2.33
UK Growth	403.57	429.32†	- 2.28	2.80
-do- Accum	540.48	574.97	+ 5.05	2.80
M&W JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01620 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1395.40	1420.70	..	3.08
Income #	1008.00	1019.70	..	4.29
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	156.20	159.10	.	3.80

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Global Income	212.10	225.60†	- 3.40	3.94
High Yield	142.00	151.10†	+ 0.60	5.91
-do- Accum	448.10	476.70†	+ 1.70	5.91
Smllr Cos Div	54.45	57.93†	- 0.07	2.96
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	113.80	121.10	+ 0.50	
Asian Growth	305.90	325.40†	- 3.90	0.25
-do- Accum	359.40	382.30†	- 4.60	0.25
North American	90.37	96.14	- 0.05	0.25
European Special	118.10	125.60	+ 0.50	0.10
European	158.70	168.80	- 0.20	0.46
-do- Accum	209.10	222.48	- 0.30	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	108.70	115.40	.	2.23

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 088				
M & S Inv Pfolio	162.60	171.10		2.13
-do- Accum	189.20	199.10	.	2.13
UK Sel Pfolio	142.20	149.70	..	2.48
-do- Accum	167.30	176.10	.	2.48
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	70.76	75.28†	+ 0.34	3.82
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				

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BARCLAYS
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An end to cashflow crises

Michael Bickers

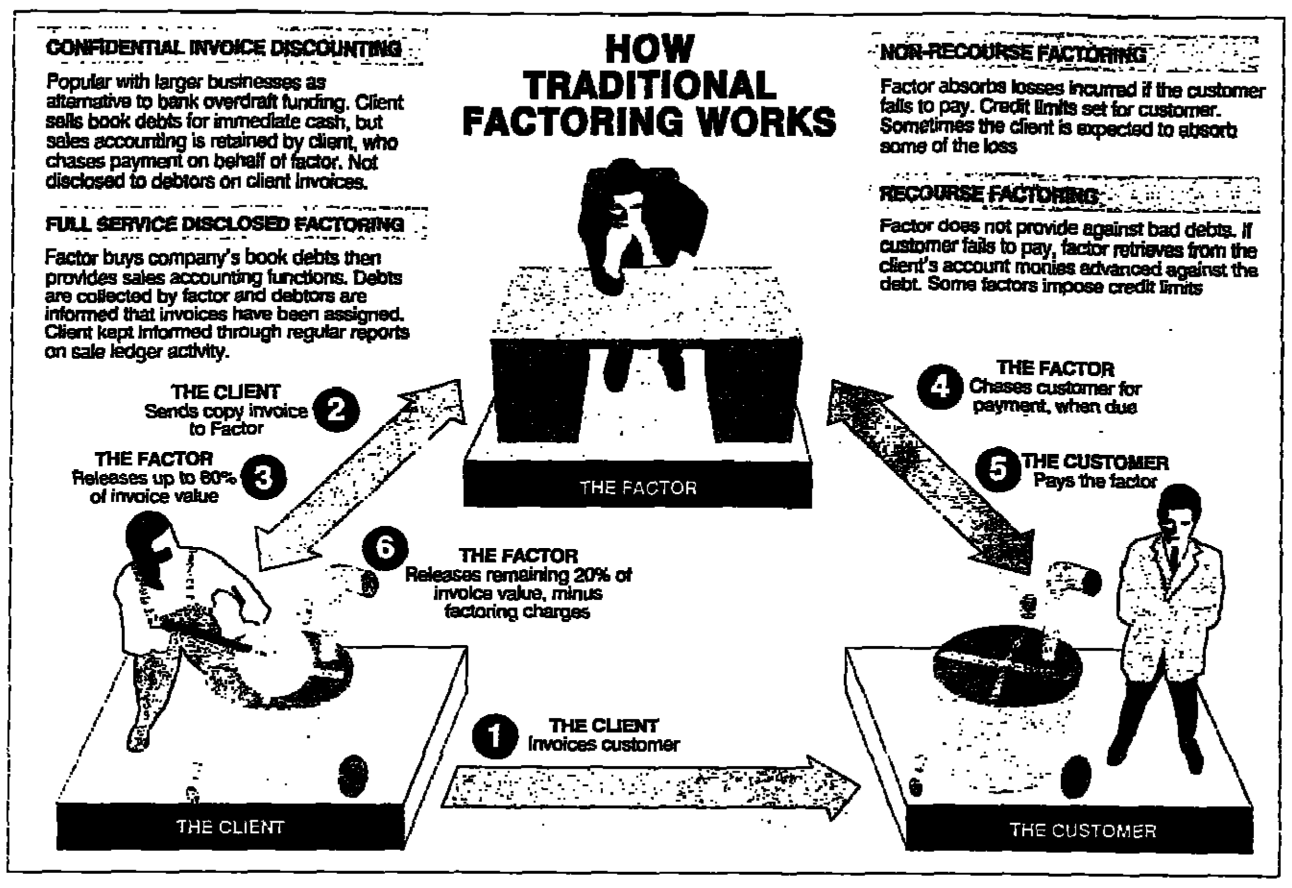
introduces a report on the billion-pound trade finance industry

For an industry that can trace its roots back four centuries, factoring is enjoying unprecedented growth. It already provides finance to more than 14,000 British businesses, yet there are few signs to suggest that it has reached or is near to maturity.

Put simply, factoring offers a business the opportunity to sell its trade debts at a discount, and thus to combat cashflow problems induced by late payments. In 1984, total factoring volume for the year was £4.4 billion. Since then, the industry has progressed at an average rate of more than 20 per cent per annum. In 1994 trading was particularly good — the 46 UK factoring companies achieved a total factored volume of £26.9 billion, an increase of £5.1 billion over 1993. In addition, more factors reported significantly improved profits and profit margins over 1993. In fact all top four factoring companies (by factored volume) reported their highest ever profit figure.

The idea goes back to the 16th century, when European merchants selling textiles abroad used agents known as "factors" to oversee delivery of goods and collection of payments. The service spread to America, where it became common practice for the agents to pay merchants before collecting from customers. In 1890, when an American ban on imports was imposed, some agents decided to offer this service to local businesses. And so factoring as we know it today had arrived.

The first factoring company to form in Britain was International Factors in 1960 (now owned by Lloyds Bank Plc). By 1972 all the major clearing banks were involved and today their factoring subsidiaries are the predominant players in the market. At first, the industry suffered from an image problem and was seen as a provider of "last resort" finance. This has changed and it is now recognised as an important form of finance for businesses.


HOW TRADITIONAL FACTORING WORKS
CONFIDENTIAL INVOICE DISCOUNTING
Popular with larger businesses as alternative to bank overdraft funding. Client sells book debts for immediate cash, but sales accounting is retained by client, who chases payment on behalf of factor. Not disclosed to debtors on client invoices.
FULL SERVICE DISCLOSED FACTORING
Factor buys company's book debts then provides sales accounting functions. Debts are collected by factor and debtors are informed that invoices have been assigned. Client kept informed through regular reports on sale ledger activity.
NON-RECOURSE FACTORING
Factor absorbs losses incurred if the customer fails to pay. Credit limits set for customer. Sometimes the client is expected to absorb some of the loss
RECOURSE FACTORING
Factor does not provide against bad debts. If customer fails to pay, factor retrieves from the client's account monies advanced against the debt. Some factors impose credit limits
1 THE CLIENT Invoices customer
2 THE CLIENT Sends copy invoice to Factor
3 THE FACTOR Releases up to 80% of invoice value
4 THE FACTOR Chases customer for payment, when due
5 THE CUSTOMER Pays the factor
6 THE FACTOR Releases remaining 20% of invoice value, minus factoring charges
THE FACTOR
THE CLIENT
THE CUSTOMER

Factors offer a number of different services but the two main arrangements are known as "invoice discounting" and "full factoring" (see illustration, above). Clients are typically small manufacturing, distribution and service companies ranging in size from £50,000 to £15 million annual turnover, with more than half under £1 million — although the average size is rising.

Until a few years ago, factoring was unknown to many businesses and financial advisers. Now, most factors report fierce competition, causing considerable pressure on pricing. Although still considered by some businesses to be expensive, factoring is often the only source of finance available to companies with weak balance sheets or up-to-capacity overdrafts.

Undoubtedly the major benefit for most firms is the provision of finance. The sales ledger management services are certainly useful to many businesses but are often thought to be expensive, to cause a loss of ledger control and reduce interaction with customers. The increasingly popular invoice discounting service is cheaper and to a large extent overcomes these drawbacks because the client continues to collect the debts, but on behalf of the factor. Invoice discounting now represents 62 per cent (£16.8 billion) of total factored volume.

The British economy's gradual move out of recession and the growing demand for an alternative to the bank overdraft is likely to continue to enhance the appeal of factoring. The Association of British Factors & Discounters (ABFD), which represents more than 90 per cent of the UK factoring industry, has reported a 27 per cent increase in the turnover of its members over the past year. (Some independent companies are represented by the Association of Invoice Factors).

With businesses increasingly looking at foreign markets, an area of particular potential for factoring is in international business. Although still small compared to domestic services, international factoring accounted for £0.74 billion during the first nine months of 1995, up from £0.55 billion in 1994.

The future for factoring, at least in the short term, looks positive. According to the latest NatWest Small Business Research Trust Quarterly Survey, cashflow is an increasingly important problem for small businesses, with more than 10 per cent reporting it as their greatest concern. However, fewer than 1 per cent of VAT-registered businesses use the services of a factor. The potential market for factoring is perhaps several times its current size.

● *Michael Bickers is author of* Factoring in the UK — a Report and Guide to the Factoring Industry *(Third edition) published by HMSO, £285.*

Should late payers be punished by law?

Nick Wilson

on the move to charge interest on overdue payments

The Forum for Private Businesses has been among the most vociferous advocates of government intervention to alleviate the effects of late payment on small firms. It favours legislation to introduce the statutory right to interest — without recourse to the courts — on all late payments.

This, it is suggested, would bind all firms into paying promptly, create a level playing field in payment behaviour and ease cash-flow problems. But would it?

Few would deny that late payment has caused an acute problem for many businesses. A survey of 655 manufacturing companies, conducted by the Credit Management Research Group at my own university, Bradford, revealed that in 1994 on average less than 50 per cent of invoices were paid on time. The typical firm quoting 30 days credit is likely to be paid 60 days or later after the delivery of goods.

The survey demonstrated, however, that those same firms citing late payment as a major business problem were likely to pay late themselves — and were experiencing difficulties obtaining bank credit, and trade credit from their own suppliers.

Many businesses, perhaps over-reliant on short-term funding, find themselves in this hole between the banks, their creditors and debtors. But there is nothing in current law to stop them incorporating a provision for interest into their terms of trade. In fact, they don't: they value their trading relationships.

Some place the late payment problem firmly on the sufferers' own doorstep. In the survey 30 per cent of firms did not agree credit terms in writing. Also, firms often delay payment by disputing delivery dates, product quality and inaccurate invoicing — ploys that no law will change.

Trade credit is often used as a competitive tool or as a means of building trading relationships. Both suppliers and customers value flexibility. If small firms are always forced to pay up quickly, many will go bankrupt.

Both the pro and anti-interest lobbies cite evidence from other European countries where similar legislation exists in favour of their cases. Interestingly, whereas 42 per cent of smaller companies in Britain rely on bank overdrafts for finance, the figure is only 17 per cent in Germany, a country noted for prompt payment.

In Britain, more financial and credit management training for smaller businesses would clearly have an impact. This might also raise awareness of benefits of factoring, credit insurance and information technology.

Other suggestions include voluntary codes of practice, or a British Standard for payments; the disclosure of payment policies in company accounts; and the streamlining of legal procedures for the recovery of debt.

County Courts can award a fixed interest of 8 per cent on judgment debts, and the Institute of Credit Management, for instance, has suggested that this be raised to 15 per cent. The Association of British Factors & Discounters argues that steps taken to improve legal procedures for debt recovery would be effective.

Despite widespread support for legislation the Government rejected the idea in the White Paper on Competitiveness but has pledged to review the case. The Labour Party has not ruled out legislation but emphasises measures which will induce a "cultural change" in attitudes to debt: it has mooted an Investment Bank for Small Firms.

The EU has said it will consider "further measures" if the slow payment problem does not improve by 1996. The possibility, however, of statutory interest being imposed quickly by the EU is remote.

● *The author is Professor of Credit Management at Bradford University. The survey* Trading relationships, Credit Management and Corporate Performance *is £25 (Tel: 01274 384387; Fax: 01274 546866).*

Ben Allen: great growth

'We feel that we have massive

Britain's cash-hungry businesses are turning in increasing numbers to factoring and the industry will reach record growth levels this year, says Ben Allen, chairman of the Association of British Factors & Discounters (ABFD).

"Growth has been very fast," he says. "We are set to enter the mainstream of financial products providing working capital for companies coming out of recession."

He expects the industry to have at least £3 billion in advances to customers this year. "That is about one-tenth of what the banks have out so I think there is scope to double our current level at least," he says. Mr Allen believes that at present levels of growth, Britain's factoring industry should outstrip the world leaders, America and Italy, in absolute volume terms by the end of the decade.

Mr Allen is confident that the negative image of factoring as the lender of last resort — a stigma it had borne since its birth in 1960 — is dead and buried.

During the recession, bank profits were savaged by bad debts and in recent years banks have became increasingly reluctant to lend on overdraft, while borrowers were also wary of this form of finance which gave their bank manager control over the company.

The ABFD held discussions with the Institute of Directors, the CBI and the Bank of England, and what emerged was a plan to move away from the traditional

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BARCLAYS
SALES LEDGER FINANCE

مكرر من الاصل

Managing directors Lyn Miles and Michael MacCarthy have both been persuaded of the benefits of factoring

A partner in the business

Frank le Duc on how a company goes about finding a good factor

BUSINESSES often turn to factoring because they need the money; and most of them stick with it. Apart from the convenience and the cash flow benefits, clients enjoy the relationship.

Lyn Miles, managing director of Romag Security Laminators, of Blaydon, Tyne and Wear, emphasises the importance of the relationship with Barclays Commercial Services, her company's factor. The cost of insuring debts persuaded the specialist glass manufacturer to review its credit control arrangements. "Factoring came out top in terms of price and convenience," Miss Miles says. "We judged factors by their approach. Some of our suppliers used factoring companies so we had first-hand knowledge."

Two were shortlisted. Their quotes were similar. "Our final consideration," Miss Miles says, "was that we bank with Barclays."

Michael MacCarthy, managing director of W. MacCarthy and Sons, turned to a factor for financial reasons on the advice of Norman Brooks, a managing consultant. The family company, a maker of cardboard boxes and containers based in Bermondsey, southeast London, found its banking terms worsening after a change of branch manager.

Mr MacCarthy had been under the impression that he could go to a factor only through a bank. Mr Brooks arranged terms with Metropolitan Factors, of Haywards Heath in West Sussex, one of the leading independent factors.

Mr MacCarthy is impressed with the service. "They don't upset and lose our customers," he says. The quote from a bank-based factor was more expensive than the one from Metropolitan, which had also helped to fund expansion through the purchase of the customer list of another concern — something the company could not have done on its overdraft.

Jeff Longhurst, of Metropolitan, says independents can be more flexible than bank-based factors, which have a rulebook to assess risk. Mr Brooks says: "On paper, they [Metropolitan] shouldn't have backed us."

Bank-based factors, however, point to their integrated service — a range of financial options all from one source. Whatever the choice, according to Alan Hughes, of Griffin Factors, part of Midland Bank, the client's needs must come first. The product must be right for the client.

support from the Establishment'

overdraft into longer term loans and greater use of factoring and invoice discounting.

"We now feel that we have massive support from the Establishment. I am very bullish about the near future," Mr Allen says.

Paul Hancock, sales and marketing director of International Factors, the industry leader, says: "Factoring has been growing eight times faster than rest of the financial services industry since the recession ended. It enjoys the advantage of not being repayable on demand." He says that what was once known for its novelty value is now a mainsource of finance. "The knowledge level of accountants about this industry has grown tremendously in the past few years."

Mr Allen says that the shake-out in recent years in the banking and accounting industries has made it easier to bring highly qualified people into factoring.

"In addition, we have begun a two-tiered system of training courses," he says. "Up to 150 people take the ABFD certificate course each year. That can be followed by a one-week residential diploma course. We aim to have it registered as a fully recognised course within the next five years."

Mr Allen's term of office was due to end in October but he has agreed to stay on for another six months to see the ABFD through a period of planned expansion.

"We have 12 member firms which account for about 90 per cent of finance in factoring, but there are another 30 or 40 smaller companies out there which we would like to bring into the organisation," he says.

One problem is the ABFD's fee base, which is uniform for all members and hence tends to exclude smaller players. This needs to be reformed, as well as the ABFD's structure as a council which would be impractical for a bigger organisation.

"We need to introduce a structured fee base and change our constitution to that of a chairman's committee," Mr Allen says.

JULES STEWART

Towards a faster service

Ruth Corb reports on the latest trends in beating bad debts

The 1990s have produced a number of interesting trends in factoring and invoice discounting as companies have struggled to find ways of insulating themselves against bad debt.

The movement from non-recourse to recourse factoring, for example, continues apace. In the first half of this year, recourse factoring in the UK grew by almost 17 per cent to a value of £2.2 billion. Non-recourse factoring increased by 14 per cent to just over £2 billion.

The exception to this trend, according to Ben Allen, chairman of the Association of British Factors & Discounters, is the international market, where the credit standing of customers is less well known, making credit insurance more important. Malcolm Smith, managing director of Alex Lawrie, says that with recourse factoring "the administration fee is lower and the client has more finance available against less well-rated customers. Bad debt protection is like health insurance: you only get cover if the customer is fit and healthy. With recourse factoring, the factor can be more flexible in its level of funding."

Another obvious trend is the growth in invoice discounting. From 1984 to 1994 it expanded by a compound rate of just over 28 per cent, according to the ABFD. The trend continues with expansion this year in the first six months increasing by 35 per cent to £9.7 billion.

To be eligible, a business usually needs a sales turnover in the region of £750,000 and a solid profits track record. Tim Lea and Wendy Trollope, industry specialists, point out that with invoice discounting "companies are able to maintain complete control of their relationships with their customers, who can sometimes be totally unaware of the factor's involvement. In some quarters the historic stigma associated with disclosed factoring is still prevalent".

They also point to the role of improved technology. Factoring firms are looking now to advances such as electronic data interchange (EDI), which does away with postal transactions, to establish a competitive edge.

Martin Forman, managing director of TSB Factors, believes that "advances in computer technology have allayed the fears of many prospective clients that they would lose touch with their customers once the factor took over the running of the sales ledger".

There is constant competition to refine the quality of service. For example, most factors now guarantee payout on a presented invoice within 24 hours. TSB Factors, however, promises a same-day payout by 3.30pm on invoices that are lodged by 9.30am each day. In June it offered £25 compensation if this was not fulfilled.

> There is constant competition to refine the business

Factoring generally costs more than invoice discounting, Mr Allen says. "With invoice discounting a business is accessing finance and taking advantage of a credit-checking facility. Factoring involves additional services."

Although administration fees — perhaps between 0.2 and 3 per cent of turnover — may often make factoring or invoice discounting seem more expensive than an overdraft, Lea and Trollope say the benefits should be taken into account. "Moreover," they add, "unlike an overdraft, this form of finance cannot be withdrawn overnight."

● A Guide to Factoring and Invoice Discounting, *by Tim Lea and Wendy Trollope of Cashflow Solutions (01273-692567) is published by Chapman & Hall, price £39.50.*

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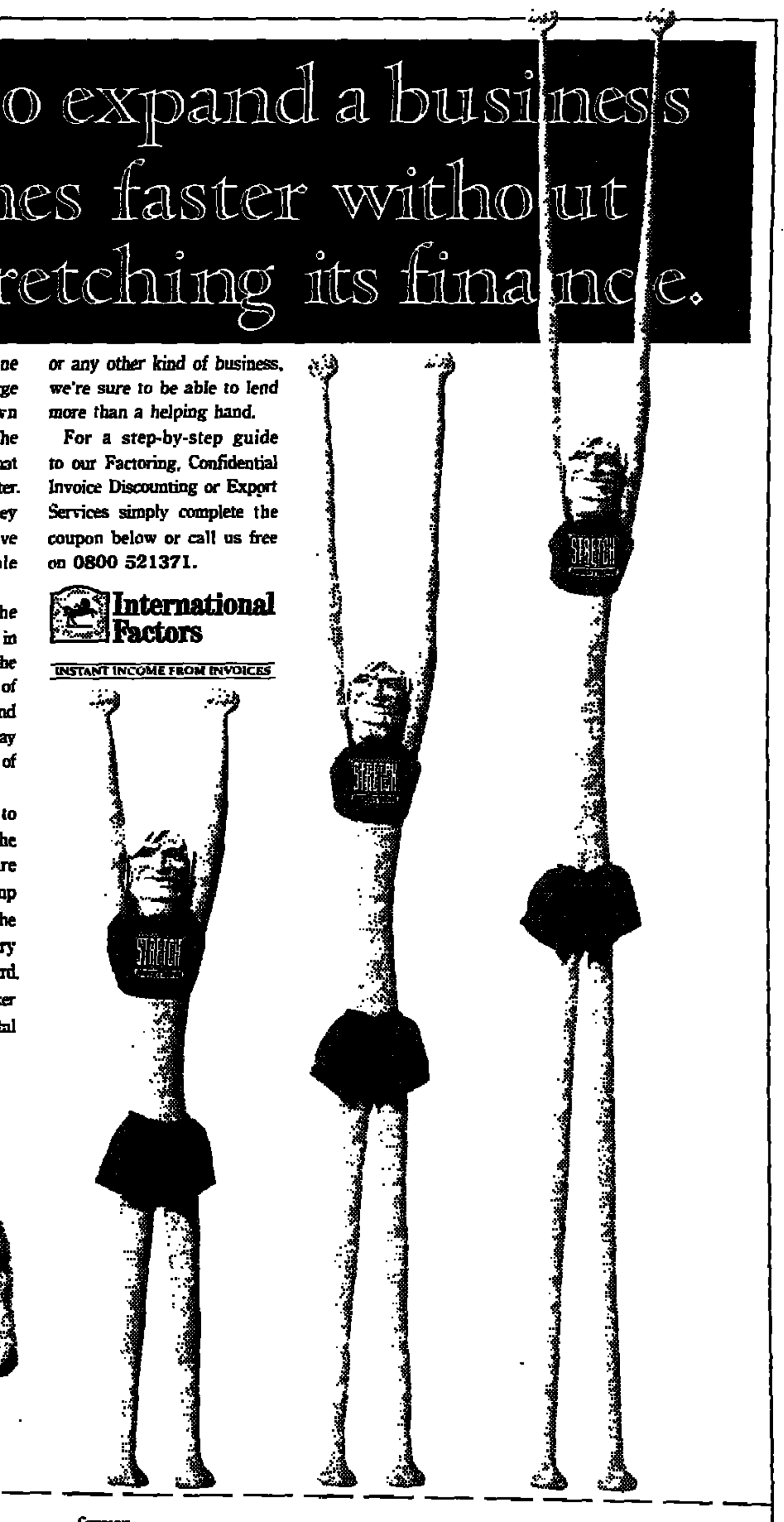

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Council not bound by policy or letter

Southwark London Borough Council v Logan

Before Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Auld

[Judgment October 31]

A written undertaking given by a housing authority to a tenant, who had left her previous property because of racial harassment and was squatting in another property owned by the authority, that she would not be evicted from that property unless suitable alternative property had been offered and refused for no good reason, did not form the basis of a binding contract between the parties.

Furthermore, the undertaking and the authority's express policy of giving precedence to victims of racial harassment did not give rise to an estoppel. Accordingly, the tenant had no right of occupation in the property in which she was squatting and the authority was entitled to bring possession proceedings to evict her from it.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing an appeal by Mrs Yvette Logan from the decision of Judge Levy, QC, who, in Central London County Court, on August 5, 1994, had made an order for possession of 21 Benwick Close, Rotherhithe, London, in favour of Southwark London Borough Council. At the same time the judge dismissed Mrs Logan's counterclaim that she was a secure tenant of the property.

Miss Elizabeth-Anne Gumbel, who did not appear below, for Mrs Logan; Mr Nicholas K. Nicol for the council.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that Mrs Logan had lived in 21 Benwick Close since the end of 1985 with her four children. Before that she had lived with her husband and her children in a two-bedroomed first floor council flat at 18 Hythe House of which she had been a tenant since 1975.

Mrs Logan and her family were subjected to serious racial harassment at 18 Hythe House. Moreover, the accommodation there was inadequate and in 1979 Mrs Logan was placed on the register for a transfer on the basis that the flat was overcrowded.

In 1985 the council adopted a policy on racial harassment which provided that victims of racial harassment should be transferred to accommodation of an equal or higher standard. In July 1985 Mrs Logan was offered another flat in a building away from Hythe House but the offer was withdrawn because the flat had only four bedrooms and by then Mrs Logan was registered as being in need of five.

Meanwhile the Greater London Council was proceeding with a new development which included 21 Benwick Close. Southwark was allocated half the development. Mrs Logan heard about the development and on December 30 or 31, she moved into 21 Benwick Close with her family.

The council took steps to regain possession because another family had been offered the house. Mrs Logan could not be persuaded to leave and in 1986 possession proceedings were brought.

An order for possession was made in the High Court on May 8, 1986. Mrs Logan was told that she should leave the property within 14 days. But the order was not enforced at that stage. The other family were pressing to get into the house but Mrs Logan refused to go.

At that time the Rotherhithe district housing manager was Mrs Ross who on August 8, 1986 wrote to Mrs Logan. It was an important letter because it formed the main basis for Mrs Logan's claim that she was entitled to remain where she was.

The letter stated: "You are registered as a family requiring five bedroom accommodation and are of the highest priority because of the racial harassment experienced by you and members of your family at 18 Hythe House ... I promise that the court order obtained in May 1986 against you will not be enforced unless it is proved that you have been offered a suitable place and have refused it for no good reason..."

On January 18, 1991 a notice to quit was served but there was a delay of over a year before the present proceedings were started on March 17, 1992. The possession proceedings came on before Judge Levy on July 27, 1994. On August 5 the judge made the order which was the subject of the appeal.

Before the judge it was contended that Mrs Logan was the tenant of the house but the contention had been only faintly pursued in the Court of Appeal. The main arguments for Mrs Logan were (a) that the letter of August 28, 1986 gave her a contractual right to remain or (b) that the council was estopped from disputing her right to remain and was estopped from bringing the possession proceedings.

His Lordship had carefully considered Miss Gumbel's arguments but it seemed that the case in contract was hopeless. It was accepted by Miss Gumbel that no term was agreed as to any payment which Mrs Logan was to make for her occupation of 21 Benwick Close. That would have been an essential term of any contract.

It was true that in certain circumstances a forbearance to act could constitute either express or implied consideration sufficient to support a contract. But the forbearance must be at the express or implied request of the other party to the contract. In the present case none of the matters set out in the amended defence was sufficient.

As to the argument based on estoppel, the first submission under that heading was that the judge should have found that a proprietary estoppel had been established. It was said that Mrs Logan had suffered a detriment because in reliance on the assurance given in the letter of August 28, 1986 she had given up her tenancy of 18 Hythe House.

Miss Gumbel directed the court's attention to reports made to the housing management subcommittee dated April 18, 1989 and April 3, 1990 which stated that in April 1988 Mrs Logan had given up the tenancy of Hythe House on the undertaking that she would not be evicted from 21 Benwick Close unless suitable alternative accommodation was available.

Miss Gumbel was right to bring those passages in the 1989 and 1990 reports to the court's attention. But it seemed to his Lordship abundantly clear that the termination of the tenancy of 18 Hythe House had nothing whatever to do with the letter of August 28, 1986.

Mrs Logan moved out of Hythe House on her own initiative at the end of December 1985. She had no intention of moving back. But even if, contrary to that view, the tenancy of Hythe House was not formally terminated until April 1988 that termination could not in the circumstances of the case be regarded as a detriment suffered by Mrs Logan. She had effectiveely severed her connection with Hythe House at the end of 1985.

Miss Gumbel argued that Mrs Logan was entitled to succeed even in the absence of a detriment suffered by her. She argued that the letter of August 28 contained a promise which gave rise to an estoppel; that Mrs Ross intended to create legal relations between the council and Mrs Logan; that she intended that the promise would be acted on; and that Mrs Logan acted on the promise, presumably, by continuing to occupy 21 Benwick Close.

It seemed clear that the estoppel on which Miss Gumbel sought to rely on that aspect of the case was a principle of equity. It was therefore necessary for the court to consider whether Mrs Logan was entitled to invoke the assistance of equity.

The case had to be looked at as a whole. Mrs Logan was now a single mother, the marriage having broken up in 1987. Three of the children, however, were now adult.

His Lordship was troubled by the fact that Mrs Logan had in the past been a victim of racial harassment. The council also had clearly been greatly troubled by that aspect of the matter. But the council had responsibilities to all those who sought its assistance. Placing those responsibilities in the balance, could it be said that it would be inequitable to allow the council to recover possession of the house?

It was to be hoped that the council would do what it could to help the family in the future. But his Lordship had come to the conclusion that it would not be right to set aside the order for possession.

Anyone reading the papers in the case would be bound to conclude that the council stayed its hand as long as it could because of Mrs Logan's difficulties. The appeal was dismissed.

Lord Justice Auld agreed.

Solicitors: Winston & Co, Notting Hill; Mr Clive Grace, Southwark.

Trespasser is entitled to protection of the law

Revill v Newberry

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Evans and Lord Justice Millett

[Judgment November 2]

A plaintiff in a personal injury claim for damages for negligence was not debarred from recovering damages even if he was a trespasser and engaged in criminal activities when the injury was suffered, if the defendant had used greater violence than was justified in self-defence and was negligent even by reference to the standard of care to be expected from a reasonable man placed in the situation in which the defendant found himself.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing an appeal by the defendant, William Ted Newberry, from the judgment of Mr Justice Rougier dated December 1, 1994 whereby he awarded the sum of £4,033 for damages for personal injuries to the plaintiff, Mark Revill. The judge found the plaintiff two-thirds to blame for his injuries.

The defendant, aged 76, was asleep in his brick shed on his allotment when he was awoken by the sound of the plaintiff and another person trying to break in. The defendant took his shotgun, loaded it, poked the barrel through a small hole in the door, and fired. The shot hit the plaintiff at a range of about five feet on the upper arm passing through it, through the armpit and into his chest.

The plaintiff was subsequently prosecuted for the various offences which he had committed that night and pleaded guilty. The defendant was also prosecuted on charges of wounding but he was acquitted.

The plaintiff then brought the present proceedings. The claim was based on assault, that is, trespass to the person; breach of duty, owed under section 1 of the Occupier's Liability Act 1984; and negligence. The claim on assault was not pursued on appeal.

To those claims the defendant raised the defences of ex turpi causa non oritur actio (no cause of action might be founded upon an immoral or illegal act), accident, self-defence, and contributory negligence.

Mr Brian R. Escott Cox, QC and Mr David Farrell for the defendant; Mr Peter Weitzman, QC and Mr Jeremy H. C. Lea.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL delivered a reasoned judgment that the appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, agreeing, said that the case was one where, on the judge's findings, the defendant used greater violence than was justified in lawful self-defence and was negligent even by reference to the standard of care to be expected from the reasonable man placed in the situation in which the defendant found himself.

The judge had also found, applying the usual standards of responsibility and fault which govern the defence of contributory negligence that the plaintiff himself was two-thirds responsible for his injuries.

The finding of negligence was challenged by Mr Escott Cox on appeal. His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Neill that the finding was entirely justified in the circumstances. The finding implied that the defendant used violence towards the plaintiff which exceeded the reasonable limits permitted by lawful self-defence.

His second contention was that the defendant had a complete defence by the application of the rule of law expressed only in the Latin phrase ex turpi causa non oritur actio. The limits of the rule in cases concerned with ownership or possession, where one party sought to enforce or take advantage of an illegal transaction, were considered and re-established by the House of Lords in *Tinsley v Milligan* ([1994] 1 AC 340).

Lord Goff of Chieveley, dissenting, referred to recent cases not deecided by the House, which considered how the rule applied where the action was brought in tort rather than in a contractual or property context. Such cases gave rise to different considerations where an illegal transaction was involved.

The present case could also be distinguished from the criminal enterprise type of case exemplified by *Pitts v Hunt* ([1991] 1 QB 24).

The issue in the present case was whether the plaintiff in a personal injury claim for damages for negligence was debarred from making any recovery where he was a trespasser and engaged in criminal activities when the injury was suffered. Any broad test of causation was satisfied in such a case, because he would not have sustained the injury caused by the defendant unless he had been where he was and acting as he was at the relevant time.

Those were the factors of fault and responsibility which were taken into account when assessing the issue of contributory negligence. So the question whether there was a complete defence would only have practical relevance to that proportion of the liability which as between the plaintiff and the defendant it was adjudged that the defendant should bear.

That did not mean that the rule could not apply, because the underlying principle was that there was a public interest which required that the wrongdoer should not benefit from his crime or other offence.

But it would mean, if it did apply to circumstances such as the present, that the trespasser who was also a criminal was effectively an outlaw, who was debarred by the law from recovering compensation for any injury which he might sustain.

It was one thing to deny to a plaintiff any fruits from his illegal conduct, but different and more far reaching to deprive him even of compensation for injury which he had suffered and which otherwise he was entitled to recover at law.

It was abundantly clear, in his Lordship's judgment, that the trespasser/criminal was not an outlaw, and it was noteworthy that even the old common law authorities recognised the existence of some duty towards trespassers.

His Lordship also noted that the report of the Law Commission *Liability for Damage or Injury to Trespassers* (Cmnd 6428) discussed the extent of the occupier's duty towards trespassers in the context of "other possible limitations upon the duty of care". It was not suggested that no duty of any sort was owed to the trespasser and it followed that the law recognised that the plaintiff had some rights, however limited, which the law did recognise and protect.

That was sufficient, in his Lordship's judgment, to answer the defendant's contention that there was a rule or principle of law which relieved him of all liability or which conversely deprived the plaintiff of any right to recover damages in the present case.

Such a rule would make it unnecessary to consider the precise scope of the defendant's duty towards the plaintiff or to apply the rules of contributory negligence. The claim would fail in any event.

Lord Justice Millett gave a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Turner Kenneth Brown for Walter Scott & Ross, Ilkeston; Miles & Cash, Eastwood.

Power to order security for costs circumscribed

Condliffe v Hislop and Another

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Roger Parker

[Judgment October 27]

The court had no jurisdiction to entertain an application by a defendant in a libel action for an order for security for costs against an impecunious plaintiff whose action was being financed by a third party.

Order 23 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, which dealt with security for costs, was exhaustive as to the circumstances in which that jurisdiction might be exercised.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendants, Mr Ian Hislop and Pressdram Ltd, from the order made on July 15, 1994 by Sir Michael Davies, in the Queen's Bench Division, whereby he allowed an appeal from the decision of Deputy Master Ashton on May 12, 1994, ordering the plaintiff, Mr John Stuart Condliffe, to provide security for the defendants' costs in the sum of £5,000, in default of which further proceedings in the action would be stayed.

The plaintiff commenced proceedings against the defendants seeking damages for libel. Thereafter he and his wife were adjudged bankrupt. Following inquiries by the defendants' solicitors the plaintiff's mother gave an undertaking to pay any court order in respect of the defendants' costs; that undertaking was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr David Eady, QC and Miss Adrienne Page for the defendants; Mr Geoffrey Shaw, QC, for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that, as Mr Eady conceded, the plaintiff did not fall within the scope of Order 23, rule 1, which was clearly directed at plaintiffs against whom, because they were abroad or concealing their identity, or were shielding themselves behind a nominal plaintiff, it might be difficult to enforce an order for costs.

Means were not relevant, except in the case of a nominal plaintiff, and, as Mr Shaw pointed out, the law was in general anxious not to shut out the individual plaintiff who was of limited means.

There was no other Rule of the Supreme Court on which Mr Eady could rely, so his submission had to be that Order 23 was not exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the court might order security for costs.

He sought to rely on the inherent jurisdiction of the court. Order 23 on the face of it appeared to be specific as to the circumstances in which security for costs could be ordered, even to the extent of providing in rule 3 for enactments which empowered the court to require security to be given.

If Order 23, rule 1 was not intended to be exhaustive as to the circumstances in which the jurisdiction might be exercised, then rule 3 would seem to be surplusage, and in *C. T. Bowring & Co (Insurance) Ltd v Corsi Partners Ltd* ([1994] 2 Lloyd's Rep 567) two members of the Court of Appeal expressed the view that Order 23, rule 1 was exhaustive.

Recognising the problems which he faced arising out of the wording of Order 23 and the *Bowring* case, Mr Eady submitted that the court had always had power to defend itself against abuse, and to make use of orders for security for costs and orders to stay proceedings to that end.

Maintenance was still an abuse, even if it was no longer a crime, or tort, and so where, as in the instant case, a plaintiff had been shown to be a maintained plaintiff, an order for security for costs enforced by means of a stay should, he submitted, normally be made.

His Lordship said that it had already been established in 1966 [before sections 13(1) and 14(1) of the Criminal Law Act 1967 abolished, respectively, the criminal offence and tort of maintenance] that a close relative would be regarded as lawfully justified and not guilty of maintenance in any sense if he or she were to give direct or indirect financial assistance to a person who was in the position of the plaintiff in the instant case.

Since 1966 nothing had happened to render illegal the actions of the plaintiff's mother.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Sir Roger Parker agreed.

Solicitors: Davenport Lyons; Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners.

Scots Law Report November 3 1995 House of Lords

Appeal available on point of law only

Martinez v Grampian Health Board

Before Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

[Speeches November 2]

Where a case originated in the sheriff court the jurisdiction of the House of Lords in relation to the appeal, pursuant to section 32(5) of the Court of Session Act 1988, was limited only to matters of law.

The purpose of the section was to keep down the costs of sheriff court actions by excluding appeals to the House on questions of fact.

The House of Lords so stated in dismissing an appeal by the pursuer, Mr Jose Martinez, from an interlocutor dated February 23, 1994 of an Extra Division of the Court of Session (Lord Murray, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom and Lord Cullen), whereby the court recalled the interlocutor dated December 17, 1992 of the sheriff principal (Mr Roland Ireland, QC) at Aberdeen who granted decree in favour of Mr Martinez.

The sheriff principal, on appeal by Mr Martinez, had recalled the interlocutor of the sheriff (Mr David Bogie) who in an action of reparation by Mr Martinez against the defenders, Grampian Health Board, his employers, for personal injuries had assoilzied Grampian.

Mr John L. Mitchell, QC and Mr Neil Beynon for Mr Martinez; Mr Philip H. Brodie, QC and Miss Lucy Keane for Grampian.

LORD JAUNCEY said that Mr Martinez slipped on the step of a staircase in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where he was employed as a porter and sustained injury.

In his action of reparation in Aberdeen Sheriff Court against his employers he averred that he slipped because of the eroded state of the tread of the step and that Grampian were negligent in not repairing the erosion.

Because the case originated in the sheriff court the House's jurisdiction in relation to the appeal was limited to consideration of matters of law: see section 32(4) and (5) of the 1988 Act.

The sheriff principal found as a fact that Mr Martinez while descending the stairs was taking reasonable care to see where he was going and slipped because of the worn and eroded condition of the step. He also found that the erosion constituted a slip or fall hazard to persons descending the staircase.

The Extra Division made no alteration to the finding as to the cause of the accident but made certain alterations to the findings relative to fault.

Reading those findings, with alterations, in conjunction where necessary with the judgment of the Extra Division, it was apparent that the phrase "potential hazard" as used there did not refer to an existing danger and that there was no other finding that the condition of the treads constituted a real risk of injury.

It was not contended that the findings were unsupported by or contrary to evidence. It, therefore, followed that no question of law arose and the appeal must fail.

His Lordship took the opportunity of clarifying an observation he made in *Laing v Scottish Grain Distillers Ltd* (1992 SLT 435, 437H), in which the issue was whether there should be remit to the Second Division for it to make further findings of fact.

After analysis of three earlier cases falling within the ambit of section 40 of the Court of Session Act 1825, his Lordship said: "It is clear from these cases that this House has no jurisdiction to embark upon an examination of evidence given in the sheriff court but is restricted to consideration of questions of law arising out of the pleadings and the findings in fact of the Court of Session".

No question as to the legitimacy of looking at the opinions of the Second Division arose and the lack of reference thereto in the above section was not to be taken as support for the proposition that it was illegitimate to look at them.

The law was as stated by Lord MacDermott and Lord Reid in *Sutherland v Glasgow Corporation* (1951 SC (HL) 1, 10-11). The purpose of section 32 of the 1988 Act was to keep down the costs of sheriff court actions by excluding appeals to the House of Lords on questions of fact and restricting appeals to those in which there was a genuine question of law.

Lord Goff, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd and Lord Nicholls agreed.

Solicitors: Levinson Gray for Drummond Miller, WS, Edinburgh for the Frank Lefevre Practice, Aberdeen; Mr Ranald F. Macdonald, Edinburgh.

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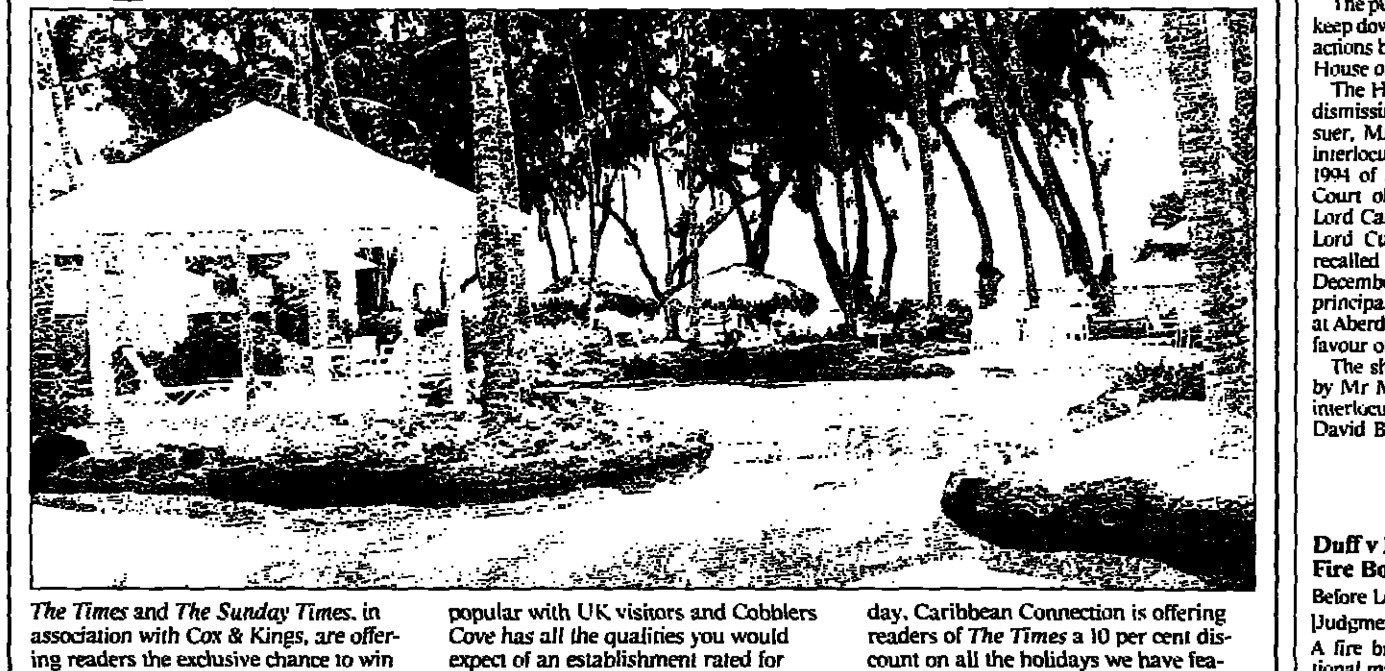

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In addition to 10 per cent off today's holiday, Caribbean Connection is offering readers of *The Times* a 10 per cent discount on all the holidays we have featured this week. For details call the brochure hotline on **01369 70 77 11**.

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Collect 30 of the differently numbered tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and you can enter our prize draw to win £20,000 cash. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances to enter the draw. An entry form to attach the tokens to will appear in *The Times* every Saturday.

● ***The winner of our holiday to St Lucia was Ms Joan Newman of Ilkley, West Yorkshire.***

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To win today's holiday answer the questions below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 which will be open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. In which area of Barbados is Cobblers Cove?
2. What is the name of Cobblers Cove's manager?

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

TOMORROW: WIN A SAFARI TO ZIMBABWE

Firefighters not immune from suit

Duff v Highland and Islands Fire Board

Before Lord Macfadyen

[Judgment September 27]

A fire brigade did not, in operational matters, enjoy an immunity for negligence analogous to that which protected the police in relation to the investigation and suppression of crime.

Moreover, since the attendance of a fire brigade to put out a fire at a house was in performance of a statutory duty, rather than an exercise of a discretionary power, their duties were not restricted to merely ensuring that they did not add to the damage that the householder would have suffered had they done nothing.

Lord Macfadyen, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so commented, assoilzing the Highland and Islands Fire Board in an action of reparation brought against them by Mrs Sheila Duff and others.

Section 1 of the Fire Services Act 1947 provides: "(1) It shall be the duty of every fire authority in Great Britain to make provision for firefighting purposes, and in particular every fire authority shall secure:— (a) the services for their area of such a fire brigade and such equipment as may be necessary to meet efficiently all normal requirements ... (c) efficient arrangements for dealing with calls for the assistance of the fire brigade in case of fire..."

Mr Edgar Owen, QC and Miss Jane Patrick for the pursuers; Mr Ian Mackay QC and Mr Jonathan Lake for the defenders.

LORD MACFADYEN said that the defenders had been called out to the house adjoining the pursuer's twice in one evening. They had left only to be recalled when it turned out that despite their first visit the neighbour's house was still on fire.

Upon their return, they had been unable to bring the fire under control, and it had destroyed the pursuer's house.

Her case against them proceeded on the basis that when they had left after their first visit, smoke had still been present in a bedroom in the neighbour's house, the source of which they had not investigated. That case had not been established by the evidence.

In the circumstances the other issues raised did not arise for decision, but it was appropriate that his Lordship should indicate his views on them.

The defenders had submitted that, if the pursuer established her case on the fact, she had nevertheless not established any novus actus interveniens on the part of the defenders that broke the chain of causation between the initial and primary cause of the loss, the neighbour's having allowed his chimney to be in such a condition as to go on fire.

In *East Suffolk Rivers Catchment Board v Kent* ([1941] AC 74), it had been held that where a statutory authority exercised a discretion to do something in pursuance of a statutory power, the only duty owed to a member of the public was not thereby to add to the damage which that person would have suffered had the authority done nothing; the authority could not be made liable for any damage that would have been avoided had it exercised its discretion in a more reasonable way, but would have been suffered if there had been no intervention at all.

His Lordship did not regard the *East Suffolk* case as very satisfactory, and was reassured to find that that view had been shared by Lord Salmon in *Anns v Merton London Borough Council* ([1978] AC 728, 764F).

The dissenting speech of Lord Atkin in *East Suffolk* was more convincing than the view of the majority. Be that as it may, the case was distinguishable because it depended essentially on the fact that the authority was exercising a mere power, and was under no statutory duty.

That was not the situation here. Certainly there was no express statutory duty on the defenders to exercise reasonable care in the fighting of fires. Fundamentally however, the intervention of the defenders stemmed not from an exercise of pure discretionary power, but from performance of the duties imposed by section 1 of the 1947 Act.

Had it been necessary to decide the issue, his Lordship would have held the destruction of the pursuer's house to have been caused by the defenders' failure to extinguish the fire completely.

The defenders had also submitted that they owed the pursuers no common-law duty to take reasonable care in the course of their firefighting operations. Reference had been made (a) to the absence of any such duty imposed by statute, and (b) to the proposition that it would be contrary to public policy to impose such a duty.

However, in the *East Suffolk* case, it had been recognised that, even in the case of a mere power, an authority which chose to exercise the power came under a common-law duty to take reasonable care not to inflict additional damage by doing so.

His Lordship therefore did not regard the question of whether and to what extent a statutory duty existed as necessarily determinative of whether a common-law duty of care existed.

The defenders' public-policy argument depended on the analogy with the law relating to the civil liability of the police for negligence in the detection of crime: see *Hill v Chief Constable of West Yorkshire* ([1989] 1 AC 53, 63); *Alexandrou v Oxford* ([1993] 4 All ER 328); *Osman v Ferguson* ([1993] 4 All ER 344) and *Ancell v McDermott* ([1993] RTR 23).

The proposition that the public-policy considerations affecting the fire service were the same as those affecting the police appeared to his Lordship to rest on nothing more than assertion.

There was a risk that the existence of potential liability might tend to encourage a defensive approach to their operations, but that argument could be deployed with at least as much force in the context of medical and other professional negligence and there was no question of public policy excluding liability in those categories of case.

It was no doubt right that in operational matters much had to be left to the professional judgment of the firefighters, but that could be achieved by applying a test analogous to the professional negligence test in determining what amounted to negligence.

It was going too far in his Lordship's view to suggest, as the defenders did, that operational judgment should be immune from challenge.

The *dicta* of Lord Clyde in *Ward v Chief Constable of Strathclyde* (1991 SLT 292), where it was held that a person injured when police sought to disperse a crowd had to prive malice and want of probable cause, fell to be read secundum subjectam materiam.

Law agents: Tods Murray, WS; Simpson & Marwick, WS.

هكذا من الأصل

■ THEATRE 1

Déjà vu time: old shows come to the aid of the ailing West End as producers fight the recession

■ THEATRE 2

A new slant on the Old West, but Beth Henley's *Abundance* doesn't rank with her earlier plays

THE TIMES ARTS

■ VISUAL ART

The British Museum evokes the glories of the medieval Palace of Westminster

■ TOMORROW

Reviews of the latest videos and CDs, including Muti's exciting new recording of *Rigoletto*

These days, says **Matt Wolf**, the 'closing notice' on a show merely signals a brief respite

Haven't I seen you before?

Successful West End shows don't close these days; they merely go on holiday. No fewer than seven current or imminent productions turn out to be return engagements of plays and musicals thought to have concluded their successful runs.

A production's "closing notice" once meant exactly that: now, it merely seems to signal a lull — and sometimes a cast change or regional tour — after which the show will resurface with its durability intact.

Is this a case of entrepreneurial caution, even laziness? In the parlous climate of the commercial theatre, any producer would prefer to repackage a tried and tested hit rather than gamble on an unknown. Or perhaps the trend reflects theatre people's burgeoning unease with the summer months in London. Each year sees more of a downturn in local audience attendance than can be made up by the *influx of tourists*.

The trend towards "déjà vu" theatre is the more remarkable given the difficulty of renewing interest in a show that has come off and then reopened. "To take on the mantle of an already successful show was quite tough," acknowledges the writer-director Terry Johnson, whose bittersweet *Dead Funny* reopened in September at the Savoy after an acclaimed run the previous season — and with a different cast — across the street at the Vaudeville.

"We closed on a high, and we felt that finding a cast to continue that run would be quite a worry." Instead, a fresh cast was assembled, initially for a ten-week tour, and it was the success of that company on the road that persuaded Johnson, and his producer Michael Codron, to try again in London.

But even if you attract a new audience, won't critics' comparisons with the first cast prove invidious? "We were braced for that," says Johnson, recalling his advice to the present company. "I said, 'Look, if you're compared negatively once, you'll be compared positively once or twice'."

In the case of *Three Tall Women*, the Edward Albee drama that has taken up residency for the second time in a year at Wyndhams, the star is the occasion. Simply put, Maggie Smith was prepared to tackle a second run of the play after a 20-week engagement last season.

"Maggie loves doing the play," explains the producer Robert Fox. "And when you've got the most commercially viable performer in the British theatre in love with a part, you don't allow it, or her, to slip away lightly." It is true: Dame Maggie could sell out a theatre reciting her address book.

In most other instances the show itself is the selling point, particularly when, as is the case with *An Inspector Calls*, a drama assumes the status of an event.

"This has become one of those unique productions," says Andrew Empson, managing director of PW Productions, which has brought Stephen Daldry's award-winning revival back to the West End three years on.

> 'We always knew it had more life in it when we took it off'

Empson says a return visit was more or less decided even before the previous staging, at the Aldwych, had finished its 17-month run last January: "We always knew it had more life in it when we took it off, and we thought we would bring it back at the safest time, October."

Advance sales of £120,000 and a new set of good reviews should ensure a quick recoupment; while a smaller theatre, the Garrick, has given Daldry yet another perspective on potentially overfamiliar terrain.

"This is about a level of intimacy, not spectacle as it was in the National Theatre's Lyttelton," says Daldry. "I won't do it again in London; this is the last go," he says, aware that a vast international market still beckons — South America, Los Angeles and, most intriguingly, a $25 million production for Las Vegas at the end of 1996.

Later this month PW Productions transfers another National Theatre hit, *The Wind in the Willows*, for a commercial run: it will be produced at the Old Vic in conjunction with theatre owner David Mirvish. Empson says that this new version of Alan Bennett's popular Christmas perennial, which will cost some £700,000, is "more than a play, really: the nearest thing to bracket it with is something like *The Nutcracker*".

But can there be an audience left for a show that began at the Olivier in 1990, and will be making its fourth return to the stage? Advance sales of £400,000 speak for themselves. Besides, as Bennett himself puts it: "For children who haven't seen it, the play will be new to them. But I can see that if it is not done right, we will get some stick."

Musicals are also playing the repeat game — assuming, of course, that they actually closed in the first place. The Bill Kenwright production of *Blood Brothers* is a notable example. He gambled on reopening a musical whose initial run lasted scarcely six months. More than seven years later that risk has been transformed into what seems like a permanent West End fixture. *Return to the Forbidden Planet* is due back for 31 performances in December to mop up the Christmas business. *Five Guys Named Moe*, after nearly four-and-a-half years at the Lyric, returned to the Albery in May when, says Cameron Mackintosh's executive producer, Nicholas Allott, "it became apparent that there was still a huge demand". And the London Palladium production of the Lloyd Webber-Rice musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* is returning to London for a nine-week season at the Hammersmith Apollo in February.

Perhaps the most intriguing return visit is that planned by the National Theatre director Richard Eyre, when he brings to the Olivier late in 1996 a new version of the hugely acclaimed *Guys and Dolls* which marked his South Bank debut in 1982.

"It's partly sentimental, partly commercial," Eyre says of his decision to reprise what was the first musical in National Theatre history. And lest it sound like directorial complacency, think again: "We have no obligation to replicate reverentially; we're determined not to make it lacklustre. This will not be *le pot réchauffé*."

Here we go again: Terry Johnson's *Dead Funny* is back at the Savoy with Belinda Lang in the lead

Way out west leads nowhere fast

THEATRE

Abundance
Riverside

Beth Henley is one of the few modern dramatists who has persistently managed to create a world recognisably her own. Think of her *Crimes of the Heart* or *Miss Firecracker Contest*, and instantly you can smell the wisteria on the porches and dead dogs rotting in the street, and hear the mad crash of crockery and the coy little expostulations of "honey child" and "poppa sweet potato". She has given her Deep-South town various names, Brookhaven and Hazlehurst among them; but I tend to think of it as Henley, Miss, after its wonderfully funny annalist, Miss Henley.

But in *Abundance* she has ventured back in time and westwards in space and, I fear, lost more than she has gained in the process. One of criticism's worst habits is to belabour dramatists for failing to repeat themselves. But as the evening meandered rather thinly on, I found myself increasingly puzzled by its aims and intentions. Was Henley trying to reinvent herself as a female Sam Shepard? Is her piece an attempt to demystify the Old Frontier and show the dehumanising impact of the white homesteaders — or what?

The beginning is promising, provided you overlook the horribly inept accents assayed by Lisa Forrell's cast. Two women are in deepest Wyoming in 1860, waiting to meet the farmers they have agreed by mail to wed. Maryam d'Abo's Macon, the more confident, is already talking of divorcing her husband-to-be if he is ugly. Myriam Cyr's Bess, the scattier and more insecure, worries about her eyes being too close together "and my nerves too aggravated" to please a husband. One of them, I forget which, dreams of erecting an ice-palace in the prairie and killing Indians with boiling-hot bullets. Some of the dialogue is up to Henley's eccentric best.

What ensues has its quirky moments, but not many of them. Each woman has clearly married the wrong man. Corey Johnson's sour, mean Jack Flan doesn't hide his contempt for Bess. Macon shrinks from William Hope's folksy Curtis even when he proudly gives her a Christmas present that will make *him look less unprepossessing* — a glass eye to fill the hole left in his forehead by a threshing accident — and launches into an affair with Jack. The Curtises thrive, the Flans don't. And then, just as you think Henley's powers of invention have deserted her, Bess is captured by redskins.

What happens to her in the years before her recapture is not too clear; but the impression left first by the tattoos on her face, and then by her agreement to write a bestseller denouncing all Indians as subhuman, is that she is trading a culture she found congenial for white man's gold. At any rate, she prospers and coarsens while Macon, don't ask me why, joins a freak-show and succumbs to syphilis.

Both actresses chronicle their respective journeys with warmth and skill, but neither has strong enough lines to make themselves fully credible or, for that matter, sympathetic. By the end the West seems a pretty shoddy place — but, by the end, who cares?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Some quirky moments: Corey Johnson, Maryam d'Abo, Myriam Cyr in *Abundance*

Rare fare served with mild relish

OPERA

Una cosa rara
Bloomsbury

Vincente Martin Y Soler's opera of 1786 — Vienna, six months after *Figaro* — is famous for two reasons. Mozart quotes a tune from it in the supper scene of *Don Giovanni*, and it has almost as un-PC a title as *Così fan tutte*, which it immediately precedes in opera dictionaries. The "rare thing" of the title is female probity, the subtitle being "beauty and honesty". The librettist was Lorenzo Da Ponte, who had a reverse interest in such matters.

It is easy to see why the piece was so popular in its day. Martin's folk-based tunes may be short-breathed but they are catchy and hummable. Within them he seldom strays from tonic-dominant patterns, which means that the charm wears a little thin after a couple of hours — a surprise modulation in the second act is the musical equivalent of Krakatoa in full eruption. But the neatly-built finales have genuine dramatic energy, and the graceful duet *Pace, caro mio sposo* (which Mozart could well have quoted in another context) deserved to be the hit of the day.

The real problem with the piece is that the plot runs out in the first-act finale, and the second act is pure padding: Mozart would never have let Da Ponte get away with such lazy construction.

The action shows Queen Isabella of Spain graciously sorting out the love-lives of the peasantry, with precious little help from her amorous son and his equally amorous esquire. Virtue triumphs, the esquire carries the can for the prince, the peasantry is duly grateful, and all's well with the world. We are a long, long way from the social turbulence of *Figaro*.

Simply for reasons of context, then, *Cosa rara* merits the occasional revival, even one as homely as Opera Italiana's (exiguous budget, no production to speak of, and on external evidence precious little rehearsal).

The company, founded in 1962 and affiliated with the Rossini Society, fielded an impressively international cast hailing from Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Spain and Shropshire. Anna Cors was as well suited to Queen Isabella by reasons of talent as by nationality: the Spanish soprano has warm tone, musicianship and sufficient agility to throw off the coloratura Martin places in her path. Her wig was a collector's item. Lucia Gomez-Santana (Mexico, ex-Guildhall School) and Leisha Davies (South Africa) gave neat, cleanly sung performances as Merry Peasants.

The male members of the cast were more modestly gifted, though John Murray (New Zealand) had a good shot at the Prince. All sang in clear, communicative if not always idiomatic Italian.

The conducting of Alexander Bryett, founder of Opera Italiana, was notable for spirit (infectious) rather than stick technique (hazy). The leader of the orchestra deserved a medal.

RODNEY MILNES

Still setting his own standards

CABARET

Gerard Kenny
Café Royal

Singer-pianist Gerard Kenny wore a white jacket with the collar of his black shirt turned out: I half expected a medallion. His well-groomed opening-night audience included such nostalgic figures as Lynsey de Paul, Liz Robertson and Ned Sherrin, and he entered acknowledging friends and other familiar faces, in copybook cabaret-star fashion.

But then, he is a cabaret star, returning (for two weeks) to the London room which he filled every night during his 1994 visit. His voice is warm and flexible, his manner confident but not swaggering. As a singer he had his own hits, mainly 1978-80, but is best known for the success his songs have brought for others, from Dennis Waterman (*I Could Be So Good For You*) to Barry Manilow (*I Made It Through the Rain*).

He also wrote a song called *New York, New York*; not the one from *On the Town* nor the Frank Sinatra anthem which begins with "Start spreading the news . . ." Kenny's goes: "New York, New York, so good they named it twice. New York, New York, all the scandal and the vice (I love it)." At this point, two women sitting together let off party-poppers and blew whistles, activities with which they punctuated later choruses. "They can't *both* be his mother", my neighbour waspishly observed.

Related or not, they were merely offering an exaggerated version of the warm response which his well-paced show elicited from the whole crowd. He mixed Porter and Gershwin with such things as *I'm Dancing My Blues Away*, co-written with Liz Robertson's late husband, Alan J. Lerner.

Elton John's *Honky Cat* was played in honour of his apprenticeship in the piano bars of New York, where Billy Joel and Manilow were similarly struggling, an era further recalled with *Nickels and Dimes*, a spirited memoir, though perhaps not up to the standard of Joel's *Piano Man*, nor *New York State of Mind*, which preceded *New York, New York*.

Kenny likes to experiment with tempos, slowing both *From This Moment On* and *Johnny B. Goode* to a stroll, while *Every Time You Go Away* and *My Funny Valentine* were still more stately. His accompanists, the impeccable Len Skeat on bass and Mike Smith on drums, added immeasurably to the effectiveness of a likeable, intelligently structured show.

TONY PATRICK

● *Café Royal, Regent Street, London W1 (0171-437 9090), Tuesday-Saturday until November 11*

Isabel Carlisle explores a British Museum exhibition that convincingly details England's medieval majesty

When Westminster was a palace in more than name

THE IDEA of great lost buildings has a powerful grip on the imagination, from Solomon's Temple to Henry VIII's Nonesuch Palace. The medieval Palace of Westminster was lost relatively recently, destroyed by fire in 1834 to be replaced by today's Houses of Parliament.

Some of it still stands: St Stephen's Chapel and Westminster Hall became part of Pugin and Barry's architectural scheme, but the rest is known only from a few architectural fragments, and drawings and paintings.

The British Museum has assembled much of what still exists into its small temporary exhibition gallery, but even with these meagre clues manages to give a convincing idea of these important medieval buildings and their decorative schemes.

William Rufus built the great hall of the palace in the 1090s to be one of the biggest secular buildings north of the Alps. What we know as Westminster Hall was then "modernised" by Richard II, converting it from Norman to Gothic.

The side walls were raised and the enormous hammerbeam roof, one of the major achievements of medieval carpentry, added to increase the height and free the interior of supporting columns.

The decoration was designed to be equally imposing; life-size stone statues of Richard's royal predecessors were placed in niches above the king's throne.

Six have survived in their original positions and are in the exhibition, newly restored and cleaned. From fragments of paint found in crevices underneath thick layers of limewash it is clear that these statues would have been gilded and painted with emerald green and crimson robes, and would have had a powerful propaganda message, reinforcing Richard II's right to rule.

These kings have a crude but very real vigour. Their creator was not a great artist, but he conveys the certainty of working in a period when England was in the mainstream of Northern European art.

Richard II's patronage of the arts was more extensive and international in scope than that of any previous English court. We know that he owned more than 3,000 items of goldsmiths' work, and we know that he was an artistic innovator: his gilded portrait from Westminster Abbey, the centrepiece of this exhibition, is without historical precedent.

It is unclear what Richard intended in this icon, perhaps to convey kingship in his absence, but it started the important tradition of royal portraiture.

Also from Richard's reign are three large bronze ewers that had the bizarre fate of being exported to Africa at an unknown date and then rediscovered in 1896 during a British expedition to the Ashanti Kingdom of the Gold Coast.

Equally extraordinary in the realm of chance discoveries is that of two painted panels that turned up in Bristol in 1993 in an auction and were later purchased by the British Museum. They come from the ceiling of what was known as the "Painted Chamber", the king's audience and bed chamber in the Palace of Westminster.

Dating from the 1260s the heads of a prophet and an angel are the earliest known panel paintings in England and formed part of a short-lived decorative scheme that was one of the high points of English medieval art. They are painted with a bold freedom that would have made their features visible to anyone below, including the king lying in his bed.

As in silent cinema, the expression is everything. The downward turn in the prophet's eyebrows, mouth and even nose suggests the doom-laden Jeremiah, while the seraph is entirely upbeat: hands, hair, eyes, smile and two magnificent pairs of feathered wings involved in an exuberant uprush of movement.

What a pity that so little English medieval art survives, but all credit to the British Museum that this exhibition leaves us wanting more.

● Westminster Kings and the Medieval Palace of Westminster *is at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555), until January 14, 1996; admission free*

Life-size: one of the six statues of kings of England carved for Richard II in 1385

■ CHOICE 1

Diana Rigg returns to the National in the title role of *Mother Courage*

VENUE: Previews from tonight at the Olivier

■ CHOICE 2

Gavin Bryars and Robert Wilson collaborate on an operatic *Medea*

OPENS: Radio 3 and Glasgow Tramway, tonight

THE TIMES ARTS

■ DANCE 1

Richard Alston's new programme parades the influence of America's top choreographers

■ DANCE 2

. . . while in Montreal the festival patrons chew over the latest William Forsythe ballet

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN: Diana Rigg marks her return to the National with the title role of Brecht's epic denunciation of war. Jonathan Kent directs a new version by David Hare
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews Nov 3-13, 7.15pm; mats Nov 9 and 11, 2pm. Opens Nov 14, 7pm. Then in rep. Ⓢ

WEBERN TRIBUTE: Markus Stenz and the London Sinfonietta pay homage to one of this century's neglected musical geniuses with a selection of Anton Webern's choral and chamber miniatures. A Sinfonietta commission by Simon Bainbridge, a horn concerto titled *Landscape and Memory*, should prove a fascinating foil
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Sun, 7.45pm. Ⓢ

BEETHOVEN'S TENTH: Revival of Peter Ustinov's last (so far) play. Stash Kirkbride plays the 212-year-old composer, summoned back to life by a dysfunctional family. Gemma Eddington directs for Mytton Crest
Tristan Bates, Actors Centre, 1a Tower Street, WC2 (0171-240 3940). Mon-Tue and Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3.30pm and Sun, 4pm. Until Nov 18.

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Martyn Brabbins and the **BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra** get the weekend off to a rousing start with the much-awaited UK premiere of Gavin Bryars's *Medea*. Majella Cullagh takes the title role, with Richard Halton, Patricia Bardon, Gidon Saks, and the Chorus of Scottish Opera. As part of BBC Radio 3's Fairest Isle celebrations
Tramway, Albert Drive (0141-227 5511). Tonight, 7pm. Broadcast live Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: The Royal Northern College of Music boasts an all-star cast for its first **Glories of the Keyboard** festival, including Emanuel Ax, Arnaldo Cohen, David Owen Norris, Anne Queffélec, Kenneth Gilbert and Charles Rosen among them. Three more days of inspiration are given a final flourish on Sunday by Barry Wordsworth and the BBC Philharmonic
RNCM, Oxford Road (0161-273 4504). Until Sun. Ⓢ

NORTHAMPTON: Life meets art in Neil Simon's hit musical **They're Playing Our Song**, based on the relationship between composer Marvin Hamlisch and lyricist Carol Bayer Sager. Fun, funny, and a great love story, with a score by the subjects at hand
Royal Theatre, Guildhall Street, (01604 32533). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, except Nov 11, 18 and 25, 5pm and 8.30pm; mats Nov 9, 16 and 23, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

NEWCASTLE: Second Stride offers the world premiere of *Badenheim 1939* tonight, based on the novel by Holocaust survivor Aharon Appelfeld: a picturesque resort ominously transformed. Script by Sian Evans, music by Orlando Gough. Antony McDonald directs
Playhouse, Haymarket (0191 230 5151). Tonight, 7.30pm. Then on tour to Watermans, London; Bury St Edmunds; Crucible, Sheffield.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Dora Carrington; *Art of African Textiles* (0171-638 4141) . . **British Museum**: Hellenistic World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555) . . **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (071-928 3144) . . . **National Gallery**: Myths and Fables: Three Paintings by Piero di Cosimo (0171-747 2885) . . . **National Portrait Gallery**: John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award (0171-306 0055) . . . **Royal Academy**: Africa: Art of a Continent (0171-439 7438) . **Serpentine**: Big City: Artists from Africa (0171-723 9072) . . . **Tate**: Dynasties: Paintings in Tudor and Jacobean England; Turner Prize 1995 Exhibition (0171-887 8000) . . . **V & A**: Design Now: San Lorenzo Silversmiths Studio, Milan (0171-938 8500) . . . **Whitechapel**: Seven Stories about Modern Art in Africa (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ **THE CABINET OF DOKTOR CALIGARI**: A stage version of the German silent classic. Good sets, unearthly music, pointless dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramm as Matthew Kelly's sleepwalking killer
Lyric, King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **DEAD FUNNY**: Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics and some of their fans
Savoy, The Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat 5pm Ⓢ

◩ **EDDIE IZZARD**: The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun 7.30pm Ⓢ

☐ **THE HOTHOUSE**: Assailed by cranks in a mysterious detention centre Harold Pinter is marvellously funny, heading the strong cast in his own long-buried play. With Tony Haygarth, Celia Imrie and John Shrapnel
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production returns, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm

☐ **JOLSON**: The highs and lows of the singer with with a monster ego. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◩ **MACBETH**: Enjoyable production, with Lennie James and Helen McCrory, even if sometimes more fire emerges from the pyrotechnic design than from the speeches
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 2pm and Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER**: Peter Hall's cosy version of Ibsen, with Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and Victoria Hamilton
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

◩ **ONE FLEA SPARE**: Fascinating play by Naomi Wallace, set in plague-stricken London where an assortment of trapped people break social and sexual boundaries. Top class acting.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

◩ **PRISONER CELL BLOCK H: THE MUSICAL**: Dreadful musical version of the trash TV show. With Lily Savage.
Queen's, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5044). Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri and Sat, 6pm and 8.45pm

◩ **SON OF MAN**: Dennis Potter's story of the life of Christ (Joseph Fiennes), religious rebel. Strong acting, good design, unclear purpose
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Thurs, 7.15pm; mats Sat and Thurs, 2pm. Ⓢ

◩ **THREE TALL WOMEN**: Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **WHAT A SHOW!**: Musical spectacular revolving around Tommy Steele
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-8393 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CRIMSON TIDE (15): Antique heroics in a nuclear submarine, with Gene Hackman and Denzel Washington. Tony Scott directs, with some fancy photography by Dariusz Wolski.
Odeon Leicester Square (01426-915 683)

FARINELLI (15): The life of an 18th-century castrato. Lots of opera, sex and clothes, but the film only scratches the material's potential. Gérard Corbiau directs Stefano Dionisi, Enrico Lo Verso and Jeroen Krabbe
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Curzon Mayfair** (0171-369 1720) **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **FRENCH KISS** (12): Dizzy Meg Ryan gets entangled with French rogue Kevin Kline. Charmless romantic comedy, directed by Lawrence Kasdan
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JADE** (18): Nasty, meretricious thriller about the ripples caused by a millionaire's murder: with David Caruso, Linda Florentino and Chazz Palminteri. Director, William Friedkin
Empire Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **CLUELESS** (12): Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Frivolous fun from director Amy Heckerling, with Alicia Silverstone
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **HAUNTED** (15): Ghost sceptic Aidan Quinn revises his opinions while staying in a stately home. Laboured version of James Herbert's novel.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15): Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **MORTAL KOMBAT** (15): Cinema version of the video game, all fights and special effects. With Christopher Lambert. Director, Paul Anderson
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

NIGHTWATCH (18): Morgue nightwatchman gets the jitters. Danish thriller with a few classy trimmings. Director, Ole Bornedal.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U): Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Irene Bedard
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **UNDER SIEGE 2** (18): *Die Hard* on a train, with an impassive star (Steven Seagal), a grinning villain (Eric Bogosian), and much tedious action.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE WILD BUNCH (18): William Holden's outlaws have one last, bloody fling. Sam Peckinpah's classic Western of 1969, with ten minutes restored.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

DANCE: An evergreen song is put through its paces; and Montreal enjoys a frantic fortnight

Far more Stardust than star quality

Richard Alston
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Whether by design or happenstance, Richard Alston's new programme wears the influence of two of America's top dance-makers. The contemplative abstraction of Merce Cunningham is overwhelmingly present in *Rainbow Bandit*, which has been revived for the Richard Alston Dance Company's 1995-96 season; while Twyla Tharp's glib talent for matching serious dance to popular music is the clear antecedent of *Sometimes I Wonder*, Alston's new piece inspired by Hoagy Carmichael's *Stardust*.

Rainbow Bandit was, in fact, one of Alston's earliest creations. He made it for London Contemporary Dance Theatre in 1977 shortly after studying in New York with Cunningham. Not surprisingly, *Rainbow Bandit* is the work of a choreographer who is still finding his feet, and it smacks too much of reverence for the teacher. But its revival does show us how Alston was assimilating what he had learnt in America, lessons that coloured his work for decades.

Like Cunningham, Alston plays with vocabulary in *Rainbow Bandit*, although without the subversive wit of the master to lighten the academic agenda. Beginning in silence, the nine dancers drift through various permutations on the art of balancing: slow tilting arabesques, deep unhurried pliés, leisurely body bends. By the time Charles Amirkhanian's text-sound composition kicks in to provide a rhythmic aural stimulus, the dancers are well on their way, dashing off the balances like veterans.

From Amirkhanian's fragmented spoken layers to Carmichael's enduring melody — there have been 1,300 recorded versions of the tune, apparently — is quite a leap, but then so is the transition from Cunningham to Tharp. With *Sometimes I Wonder*, it is impossible not to be reminded of Tharp's sophisticated and stylish *Nine Sinatra Songs*. Indeed, Alston had originally intended to use a Sinatra recording of *Stardust*, but opted instead for the likes of Vic Damone, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

Alston has built almost 45 minutes of dance around a single song, an idea which sounds as if it could have been an enormous bore. But he is too clever simply to parade one recording after another; by emphasising the instrumental interpretations, from Artie Shaw to Wynton Marsalis, Alston provides so much musical variety that most of the time *Stardust* the tune is unrecognisable anyway.

Some of the choreography for the ten dancers is wonderful, full of affectionate duets, nostalgic phrases, jaunty scissor kicks and jazzy body rolls. Pee Wee Ellis's version is the occasion for soft sensuality, Fitzgerald's bossa nova rendition for peppy animation.

Sometimes I Wonder, though, suffers from the oldest of dance sins — it's just too long. We could have done without some of the recordings, like Lionel Hampton and Oscar Peterson's tedious contribution, which cast a soporific spell over dancers and audience. By then, too, the choreography was beginning to look dangerously repetitive.

Alston wasn't helped by his team. Production values were poor (for *Rainbow Bandit*, too): the costumes, in particular, were a disaster, dreadful of cut and colour. And the dancers, the very people Alston should have been able to count on, treated the performance like a run-through. Technically they were fine, but whatever emotional investment they were capable of making seemed to have been left in the dressing room.

DEBRA CRAINE

DEE CONWAY

Alston's *Sometimes I Wonder*: some nice touches but, at 45 minutes, a great deal that wasn't sufficiently gripping

Showcase for movers and shakers

FIND
Montreal

WANTING to avoid mental indigestion, I rationed myself to watching only 16 companies in six days at Montreal's Festival International de Nouvelle Danse (FIND) — the world's most intensive showcase for new dance. Anyone so minded could spend the whole fortnight rushing daily from "meet the artist" sessions over breakfast to lunchtime shows or discussions, then on to performances, films, videos and exhibitions through until midnight.

Among the main events, Les Ballets C. de la B. from Belgium was a great discovery, although some hated it. Alain Platel might have found a briefer title than *Bonjour Madame, Comment Allez-Vous Aujourd'hui, Il Fait Beau, Il Va Sans Doute Pleuvoir Etc*, but that serves to warn of the rambling nature of his "antidance".

Seven men, varied in looks, personality, dress and manner, move first in repetitious union, later in apparently spontaneous isolation. They talk, smoke, brawl, show off. Three adolescent boys imitate or distract them. An alarming slut in an incredible platinum and pink wig, arriving on a motorbike, disturbs them further.

Bonjour Madame is far better than most productions about urban angst, thanks to frequent comic incidents, the exhilarating physical prowess of its climactic display of virtuosic rope-jumping, and an almost hidden depth of feeling.

The audience's prize, *Prix de Publique*, went to Saburo Teshigawara's group Karas for *Noiject*, already seen and admired in London. A welcome contrast to the fierce mood of many shows was Susan Marshall's new work *Fields of View*, a lyrical treatment of meetings and partings, set to Philip Glass's Fourth String Quartet.

Her New York company was among those invited from abroad, who also included several from The Netherlands, a highly regarded new work by Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker from Brussels, and the Frankfurt Ballet in William Forsythe's latest big production, *Eidos/Telos*.

Covent Garden audiences know one aspect of Forsythe, his flair for extending dancers in his own development of classic dance. But they have not seen the theatricality of his longer pieces. In this instance, the topic is abstract and philosophical: the contrast between permanence and change, purpose and achievement.

Thom Willems's score is for a solo violinist and three trombonists, the sound treated electronically and sometimes vastly amplified. In part one he includes variations on a theme from Stravinsky's *Apollo* and Forsythe makes the on-stage violinist imitate one of Apollo's solos. Clocks with different speeds underline the disorientation of having six dancers work simultaneously but not in synchrony.

Part two brings other aspects of disturbed classicism: first when Dana Caspersen, speaking her own texts, acts a spider-goddess; later, when a courtly ensemble for large casts is disrupted by a woman grating out the words of "luck be a lady", or a man shouting obscene but funny threats. In part three, waves of movement, sound and energy clash; dancers make repeated attempts to regroup and hold together against chaos; at the end all is cataclysm and doom.

This is an immensely complex, disturbing work. Some of the audience found it too much to take and left; others stood to cheer at the end. Either way, you could hardly be untouched.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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■ POP 1

Made in Heaven supplies the final chapter to the remarkable musical odyssey of Freddie Mercury

■ POP 2

. . . while the collaboration CD from "Passengers" has everything from avant-garde Eno to Pavarotti

THE TIMES ARTS POP

■ POP 3

If you haven't been clubbing at Cream in Liverpool, *you* haven't begun to live

■ POP 4

The only thing stopping St Etienne from being big in Britpop, it seems, is that Gallic moniker

Dynamite with a laser beam

"I can't take it if you see me cry/I long for peace before I die," sings Freddie Mercury (here with drummer Roger Taylor) on *Mother Love*, the last song he ever recorded

NEW ALBUMS: Freddie Mercury put the last 16 months of his life to good use — Queen's last is a cracker, says **David Sinclair**

QUEEN
Made In Heaven
(Parlophone 8 36088)

FRANKLY, the impending battle of the Bands with Dead Singers is not alluring. But while the regrouped Beatles have been forced to work with some pretty scant contributions from John Lennon, the remaining members of Queen were bequeathed *a generous album's worth of surprisingly* full-blooded performances by Freddie Mercury.

Mercury wrote and recorded his parts in the 16 months between the end of the *Innuendo* sessions in the summer of 1990 and his death in October 1991. Although aware of the limited time left to him, he threw *himself into the project with typical* zest. Certainly, there is no discernible loss of range or power in his voice on the exuberant *I Was Born to Love You* or the soaring, pseudo-gospel chant of *Let Me Live*.

Nor are there any obviously half-baked numbers. Two songs have been recorded before: *Heaven for Everyone*, which cropped up on an album by drummer Roger Taylor's band the Cross, and the ghastly *Too Much Love Will Kill You*, a solo hit for guitarist Brian May. But the rest are new compositions, most as good as anything Queen came up with in their later years.

How good that is is largely a matter of taste. *A Winter's Tale* is the sort of sentimental hokum from which Christmas hits are fashioned, but *Mother Love*, Mercury's last recording, is a song of heartfelt pathos: "I can't take it if you see me cry/ I long for peace before I die".

Despite its overdue delivery, *Made in Heaven stands up remarkably* well as the closing chapter in a spectacular pop odyssey.

PASSENGERS
Original Soundtracks 1
(Island 524 166)

ORIGINAL Soundtracks 1 is a collaboration between Brian Eno, the *four members of* U2 and a handful of improbable guests, notably Luciano Pavarotti.

The 14 pieces are presented as a collection of "soundtracks" inspired by both real and imaginary films, a clever device which simultaneously punctures and reinforces the album's *arty pretensions (most of the credits* and story lines are obscure enough to make identification of the fakes an uncertain business).

As befits an Eno-led project, it is big on atmosphere and difficult-to-define synthesised sounds. There are industrial bumps and crashes on *United Colours*, a stirring orchestral *climax underpinned by a tricky jazz-*funk rhythm on *Always Forever Now*, and staccato vocal phrases on *A Different Kind Of Blue*.

But Bono is not a man readily to be sidelined, and there are good melodies here as well. The best is *Miss Sarajevo*, a melancholy lullaby about the war in former Yugoslavia, written in the tradition of U2's *One*. "Is there a time for keeping your distance?/ Is there a time to turn your eyes away?" Bono asks plaintively, before Pavarotti makes his volcanic entrance and the song is engulfed in a tidal wave of emotion.

ETERNAL
Power Of A Woman
(1st Avenue/EMI 8 36354)

HAVING slimmed to a trio since their million-selling debut, *Always & Forever*, London-based vocal group Eternal continue to fly the flag for British soul with *Power Of A Woman*, an album of considerable *sophistication, albeit closely mod-*elled on a conventional American sound and style.

They are rather given to satiny, set-piece ballads in the Whitney Houston mould, such as *It Will Never End* and *I Am Blessed*, with lyrics that rarely stretch beyond the blandest of primary emotional colours. But the performances are faultless, and the interweaving vocal arrangements on *Good Thing* and the unusual harmonies of the title track suggest a sense of adventure still to be cultivated.

AIMEE MANN
I'm With Stupid
(Geffen GED 24951)

THE follow-up to her much-praised 1993 album *Whatever*, this splendid collection will surely mark the belated flowering of a bedevilled career.

Aimee Mann is a brittle personality whose songs combine seductive poise with a tart emotional sting in the tail. "You leave me no option to indulge in this/ Exercise in cowardice/ Ignorance without the bliss", she sings in a voice of clear, icy resolve on *Choice In The Matter*.

Jon Brion's unfussy production *style finds room for rough guitar* sounds and, on *Frankenstein*, eccentric percussion effects, while ensuring that Mann's wonderful voice always shines. Of the various extras who lend a hand, it is the peripatetic former Suede guitarist Bernard Butler who makes the biggest impression, sharing a writing credit on *Sugarcoated* and adding his tough, spiky chops to the dreamy melody of *All Over Now*.

Trapped by a tongue twister

. . . or why the St Etienne lads may become Spud for a spell — while Sarah goes solo

CAITLIN MORAN

"WE NEVER thought of that." Pete Wiggs looks momentarily stunned.

We are sitting in The *Grapes pub in Liverpool*, not 400 yards from The Carpark, formerly known as The Cavern Club, trying to figure out why St Etienne aren't at least as big as Oasis or Pulp.

It's not that they lack pop genius — boasting a back catalogue which encompasses the Kraftwerk-throb of *Like a Motorway*, the balmy positivism of *Join Our Club*, and the definitive cover version of Neil Young's *Only Love Can Break Your Heart*, St Etienne are fairly overburdened in the pop-genius department.

It's not that they are ugly trog gutter-dwellers. Both Pete and Bob have a charming, *out-of-kilter* grasp on late-Seventies, early Eighties jackets and haircuts, and singer Sarah is regularly voted Vixen-Queen of Sex, and is blessed with a history which boasts being in *Grange Hill*. No, the reason St *Etienne* aren't blow-torched on the nation's consciousness is because their name is a bit complicated.

"We hadn't thought of that before," Pete reiterates. "But it's true. People are afraid of saying the name in *case they pronounce it* wrong. When they play our records, DJs never say who we are; they just mumble 'And that was another record by, er, some people' before going to the news. Damn and blast your childhood dream, Bob."

"*It's all my fault*," Bob admits. "When I was eight or nine, I had this vision that my band would be called St Etienne. I wish I'd chosen something a bit simpler and more Britpop."

"What, like 'Spud'?" Pete asks. "Or 'Volvo'?"

"Yeah," Bob says. "Or 'The Beatles'."

We may yet see Spud on *Top of the Pops*, as Pete and Bob are formulating a side-project to St Etienne, to keep themselves busy while Sarah records her solo album.

"Yeah, we're going to have three girl singers out the front," Pete explains, "and us in the background being shadowy Svengalis, which is what everyone thinks we are, what with Bob being an ex-music journalist. People tend to assume what we do is contrived."

"And it's not," Bob argues indignantly. "We're just *being intelligent about pop* music, and because we love music so much we don't want to leave things to chance."

But there's nothing a band can do that's half as contrived as the things that the dizzy machine of press and promotion demand they go through. Take this morning's plug for *He's On The Phone*, the new single, for instance.

"Well, this is our big hit," Bob says, giggling. "Looks like we're going to be Top Five and everything. So we did *This Morning With Richard and Judy*."

"And because it's Hallowe'en," Pete splutters on his pint, "they'd got this little *kid dressed up as* a ghost, sort of 'ghosting' in the background while we played the song."

"She had this really intense stare," Bob recalls. "Like she's been put through drama school for the last seven years, and this was her big break. She terrified me."

"I think it's great when TV people take things literally, though," Pete says. "Like, when we did *The Disney Club*, they had all these little kids holding mobile phones, and pre*tending to call us up*."

This brings to mind all kinds of terrifying possibilities as to what will go through TV producers' minds when they find out that St Etienne's forthcoming "best of" album is called *Too Young To Die*.

"Yeah, *they'll have babies* standing on the edge of a cliff, then shaking their heads, looking like they've reconsidered, and just wandering off," Pete says.

Too Young To Die is a stunning testament to just how great simple, graceful pop singles, riding on a bouncy undercarriage of house beats, can be. The new single, *He's On The Phone*, is everything the follow-up to 2 *Unlimited's No Limits* should have been. And St Etienne are *finally* going to be a household name. Once we get over one little problem.

"It's pronounced Et-eee-yen. St Et-eee-yen," Pete clarifies.

● *Too Young to* Die *is out next week on Heavenly Records.* He's On The Phone *is out now.*

Cream rises to the top spot

Alan Jackson visits Liverpool to meet the men behind Britain's hottest club

Chaka Khan insisted there should only be black towels in her dressing room before she travelled from London, by limou*sine, to grace the recent third* birthday celebrations. Often to be found behind its turntables are DJ superstars such as New York's David Morales, prized for his ability to remix the work of Madonna, Mariah Carey and Seal. With its all-day bar, clothing outlet, management company and album compilations, it is fast becoming an empire. For legions of clubbers, the most fashionable Saturday night out is to be had *in Liverpool at a venue called* Cream.

Those who did not make it to that weekend-long birthday bash had to make do with two hours of live coverage on Radio 1. Those who did say there were so many young football stars in the VIP enclo*sure that it was as if goalposts* had been placed at either end. *Brookside*'s younger cast members and a McGann brother or two were also among those pushing through the crush of 2,000 revellers to enjoy the sounds played by 25 of Britain's top club DJs.

But by the time *I arrive, on* the morning after the night before, a small army of cleaners is at work and co-founders *James* Barton and Darren Hughes have the tired-but-happy look of those who have survived some epic experience. At 27 and 29 respectively, they have seen their brainchild grow so central to Liverpool that they have accepted membership of the city's tourist board and chamber of commerce. The Saturday surge of clubbers — and they travel to Cream from all over the *country — has brought a* much-appreciated boost to local weekend trade.

Hughes looks after the day-to-day running of Cream, while Barton spends his weekdays in London, acting as head of A&R for the dance label deConstruction. But while a third and fourth *partner handle the licensing* side of the business, the two are in place each weekend to ensure the club operates in accordance with their three *golden rules. "The first is* safety," Barton says. The second is value for money — a realistic door price is essential [entrance is £8, £6 for students]. Thirdly, there's entertainment.

Barton got hooked on the club scene as a 15-year-old, after walking into Liverpool's famed The State one Christmas. After travelling around Europe picking up casual *employment with touring rock* crews, he became an habitué of London venues such as Spectrum and the Trip. It was the *summer of 1988 and acid* house was everywhere — except in Liverpool. A local club-owner let Barton promote an experimental one-nighter and his destiny was set.

Meanwhile, Hughes — *Chester-born and having just* completed a psychology degree at the then Manchester Polytechnic — followed a girlfriend to Liverpool and stayed. "But I was bored out of my head by the nightlife." A weekly club *night he initiated* quickly developed a following, and when the Friday slot at the venue in which it was held became available, he approached Barton and suggested going into partnership.

Three years on, Cream continues to build.

Music policy, as evidenced by the newly released *Cream Anthems*, is marginally less hardcore than may be immediately feared by non-devotees. The double CD's 16 Morales tracks (remixes of artists like De'Lacy, Alison Limerick and even U2) are indicative of the tastes of star DJs in the club's larger Frontroom, while a further 15 showcasing home-grown hero Paul Bleasdale (remixes of Mory Kante and the Chemical Brothers, among others) bear witness to the more experimental nature of the smaller Backroom.

Now, with annual door receipts running at more than £1.2 million, he and Barton are setting their minds on expansion. Already Cream operates a touring roadshow and manages the affairs of a string of DJs. Next, they hope to set up a network of satellite clubs around the UK — Birmingham first, by mid-1996. "But the only way to make it work will be to keep those three golden rules," he insists.

● *The double-CD*, Cream Anthems, *is available now on the deConstruction label*

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5	**Welcome to the Neighbourhood**	Meat Loaf (Virgin)
6	**Don't Bore Us, Get To**	Roxette (EMI)
7	**Design of a Decade 1986-1996**	Janet Jackson (A&M)
8	**Stanley Road**	Paul Weller (Go! Discs)
9	**Mellon Collie**	Smashing Pumpkins (Virgin)
10	**The Very Best Of**	Robert Palmer (EMI)

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EDUCATION

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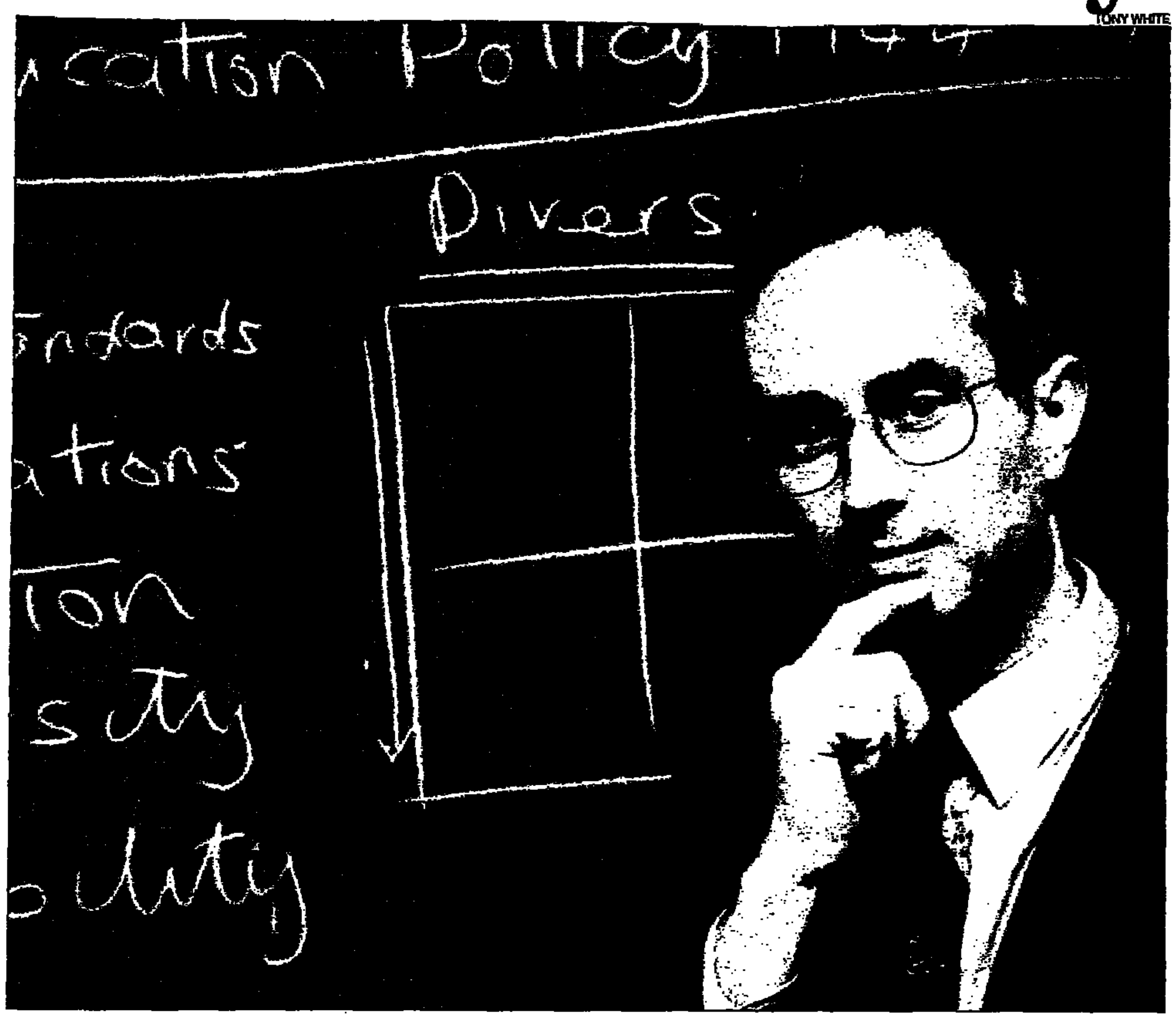
EDUCATION

Why we closed Hackney

Michael Barber explains the reasoning behind the report he helped to write on Hackney Downs School



Professor Michael Barber: keeping the school open would, in effect, be daylight robbery from other pupils in the borough

No one likes to see a once great school closed down. Yet the decision of the North East London Education Association to close Hackney Downs School has received widespread support.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is "minded to" approve its recommendations, though her final decision will depend upon the consultation exercise now in progress. The Labour Party has backed the decision, demonstrating David Blunkett's firm commitment to high standards and expectations.

Most commentators in the press recognise the case for closure, too, while in Hackney many secondary heads and local education authority officials and politicians will welcome the decision privately, if not publicly.

The level of support reflects the overwhelming logic of the case. By any standards the boys at Hackney Downs have not been receiving the education they deserve and desperately need.

As we said in our report on the school, "low expectations, slow pace and poor behaviour seem to be locked together in a destructive spiral". To some extent the present staff are victims of history and circumstances, but our prime concern must surely be the pupils.

Though clearly Hackney Downs has a disadvantaged intake, it is not unique in this respect. There are many other, more successful schools whose intakes are equally or even more disadvantaged. In Hackney, for example, three other schools which are more successful than Hackney Downs have a higher percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals.

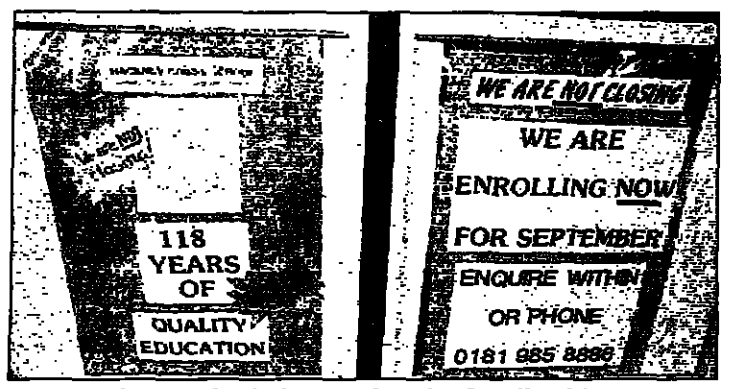
Moreover, they achieve their success at a much lower cost. The boys in Hackney Downs are being short-changed, even though the pupil-teacher ratio of 8:1 — half the national average — is one of the most favourable in the country. Expenditure in Hackney Downs is running at £6,489 per pupil per year, almost three times the national average for pupils in state secondary schools.

That extraordinary amount of money is being spent literally at the expense of other Hackney pupils. Anyone wanting to keep the school open would have to justify what, in effect, would be daylight robbery from other pupils in the borough.

Parents and pupils are understandably concerned about the closure. The education authority came firmly to the view that the best way to improve the education for the pupils at Hackney Downs was to offer them places as soon as possible at an improving school, where they had a realistic opportunity of succeeding within the foreseeable future. Homerton House School, one mile away, will provide precisely that. We have urged Gillian Shephard to support, with up to £1 million, a programme of refurbishment at Homerton House so that it can become an excellent inner-city boys' school.

Our most pressing concern is the final year pupils who will take GCSE this year. Homerton House will make special arrangements for them so that the teaching they have had and the coursework they have completed is recognised and built upon. Moreover, if Gillian Shephard approves the closure decision, the Government will pay to provide these pupils with additional classes, after school, at weekends and over the Easter holiday.

This intensive programme offers them a much better chance of success than they would otherwise have had. The education association will be giving the highest priority to working with staff in the local education authority and both schools to ensure that the transition runs as smoothly as possible.



Battleground: windows at the school earlier this year

Though our report has focused entirely on meeting the needs of young people in Hackney, no doubt there are lessons to be drawn nationally. The most important is that it has made it crystal clear that what matters is the quality of education provided, not the building it takes place in. If pupils can be assured of a better educational experience at other near by schools it is better to close a failing school and invest in more successful schools than to pour good money after bad.

But what if there are no places available near by? If the school has the potential to improve from within its existing staff, this should be built upon. If not, then a fresh start where the school is closed and a new one reopened on the same site is likely to be the best option. This is the strategy that Hammersmith and Fulham local education authority, for example, has employed with some success at Phoenix School. Either of these options will be costly and will work only if decision-makers are firmly committed.

Where the LEA is prepared to take the tough decisions and work consistently for school improvement, this must be the preferred option. Mrs Shephard has been absolutely right to use her central powers only as a last resort. The use of education associations — or "hit squads" — is likely to remain the exception. Even where an education association is appointed, its success will depend largely on its ability to work with others involved in the provision of education. Ultimately, schools are integral to the communities they serve. As a result of our decisions, central Hackney could, for the first time for a generation, find itself served by a boys' school of genuine excellence.

● *Professor Michael Barber is a Dean at the University of London Institute of Education and a member of the North East London Educational Association.*

How can it cost too much to employ me?

Barry Jones, who has been teaching for 22 years, tries in vain to find a new post

I am a 49-year-old teacher made redundant two years ago, and since then have found my chances of a job denied not by my experience, but the economic pressures on schools.

Although primarily a teacher of English, during my 22 years in teaching I have taught all age ranges and most subjects, including adult GCE to O-level standard, and have taught adult non-readers and English to foreign students.

I moved to the Isle of Wight four years ago. When we first arrived, there seemed a fair amount of supply teaching available and I worked in several schools, including a very enjoyable 18 months at one of the high schools.

I was encouraged by the then deputy head to apply for the post that I had been filling on a temporary basis, which was about to be made permanent. Unfortunately, they also needed a head of the sixth form and the teacher appointed happened to offer English as a main subject, which meant that my services were no longer required. That was in July 1993.

> 'What a waste of my talent and skills this is'

Since then there has been nothing and I have been forced onto unemployment benefit. Three head teachers have told me that I am too expensive to employ now that local management of schools is fully implemented, a situation two other teachers I know of also share.

If the counsellor in the jobcentre is to be believed, many other teachers are in a similar situation.

Surely, if people are being discriminated against because their age and experience make them too expensive to employ, then a local authority's claim to be an equal opportunities employer must be invalid.

I put his point to my local Conservative MP and to the Director of Education. They both acknowledged that discrimination in favour of younger, and therefore cheaper, teachers was happening.

I have applied for three jobs on the Isle of Wight this year, and, despite my experience, have been unable even to obtain an interview — on investigation it turned out that all three vacancies had been filled by newly qualified teachers.

I also applied for many jobs on the mainland and, although for some I was given an interview, once again the posts were given to newly qualified teachers. This must be more than just a coincidence.

During the past few months, I have tried to find suitable work, but to no avail. I have been on a job review workshop, where I took a differential aptitude test and scored 85 per cent. I was told I was suitable for all manner of quality jobs — the trouble is that there is no work.

I have attended a job search seminar, which was useful and left me feeling quite invigorated. I have put much of what I learnt there to practical use, with letters of application, CV presentation etc, but again to no avail, because there are simply no jobs.

I contacted Wight Training and Enterprise (WTE), which advertises a service for those who want a change of career, or those who are returning to the job market. WTE directed me to the careers service, where I was given a career interview and subsequently a written assessment. This told me nothing of any use, nothing new.

The only other thing they sent me was a booklet on Voluntary Service Overseas! So much for helping people to make a career move or get back into work. The hard fact is that there seem to be no jobs around that meet my skills and experience.

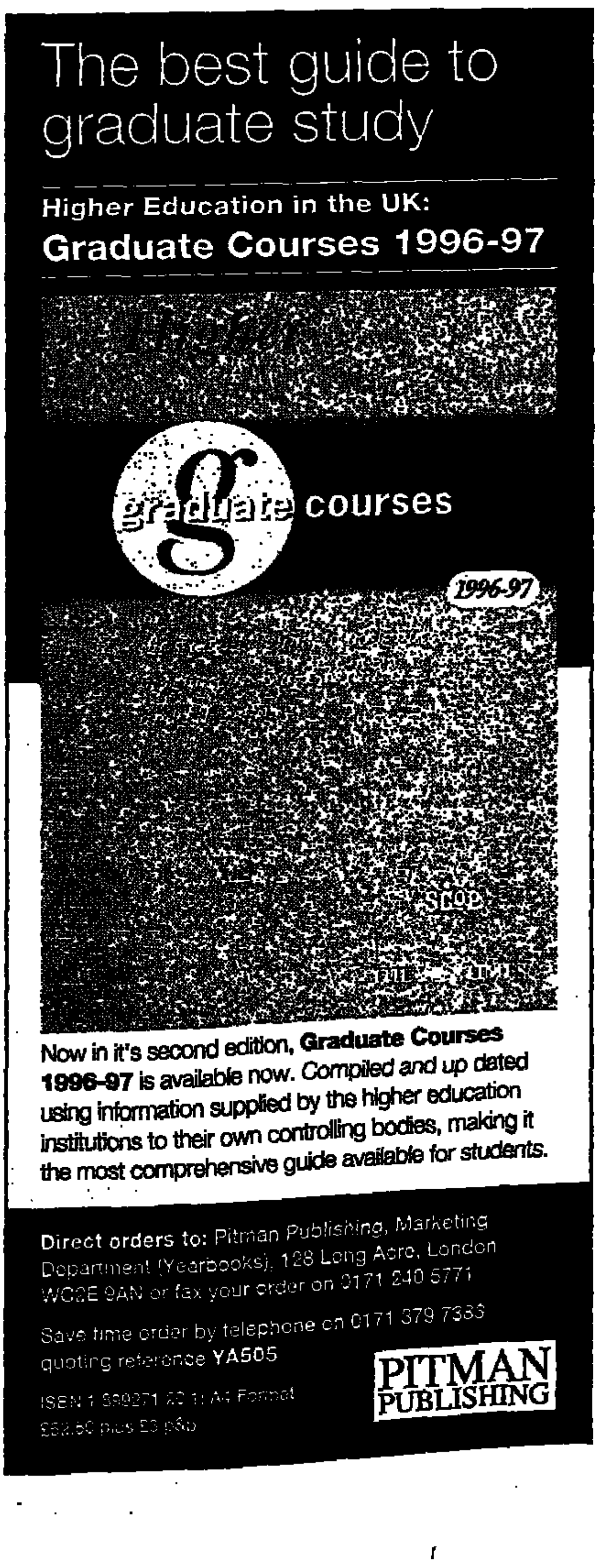
My family and I are willing to relocate. We have had our house on the market for more than two years, but there appear to be very few buyers for family homes in the middle price range, despite the fact that we have dropped the price by over £20,000.

So we cannot move to go where there might be more work, and I cannot get work here. At the moment we feel trapped. I hate being on benefit and want to get back into the job market — I have been working since 1962.

In conclusion, I want to make clear my feelings about how this Government has failed me and people like me. I am in good health, with many years of good working life left, and much still to contribute to the young people passing through the education system.

And what do I find? As a direct result of the Government's education and economic policies, I cannot find work, and must try to support a family on state benefits.

What a waste of my talent and skills this is. What a drain on the country's coffers, what a loss to the education system and young people's futures, to keep qualified people such as myself away from the very thing they do best.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PITMAN PUBLISHING

Susan Elkin on a vital involvement in secondary schools

Challenge to the parents

Jane, a secondary school teacher, was astonished when I told her I had just completed a report about parental involvement in schools like her own. "But surely that's just for primary schools," she said. She neatly summed up a common attitude among many teachers and parents.

Yet wise secondary school managers know that there is a clear link between the effectiveness of a school and the strength of its home-school relationships.

Once it is acknowledged as a good thing for secondary school parents to be positively involved in their children's education there are two key questions: what do we mean by involvement and how should schools go about getting it?

There are two sorts of involvement. The first concerns a parent taking an active interest in the school insofar as it directly affects his or her own child.

Schools which seek to involve every parent as fully as possible hold accessible meetings to explain the new secondary curriculum. They frequently send home friendly and clearly written communications about extracurricular activities, events, achievements and proposed changes. They seek every possible opportunity to meet parents in a spirit of open partnership.

Secondly, there is a broader involvement in which parents assume some whole-school responsibility which goes beyond the needs of their own children. They might volunteer to help at school in some practical way. They could, for instance, help in classrooms, referee matches, coach sports, play in the school orchestra, give clerical help or help to supervise school trips. And, yes, that does still need doing — even at secondary schools.

The presence of parents around the school and its activities helps to break down the artificial home-school divide and transmits a loud message that parents are a valued part of the school community, not an alien race. I found one school which asks all parents what — if anything — they are able to volunteer in the way of time, talent or labour and keeps the information handy on a database.

Other forms of broad parental involvement include working with, or serving on, the committee of the PTA. It might also lead to standing as a parent governor.

The more parents know and are involved with the school the better. However, the Government's "parent power" notion is dangerous because of its confrontational connotations. Teachers, students and parents need to work closely together in partnership. Power struggles should not be part of the equation.

Unfortunately, mutual feelings of mistrust and insecurity, often leading to an urge to dominate, have too often dogged home/school relationships. Teachers are traditionally wary of parents: especially the ones they fear might know too much. Only a generation ago many school entrances still displayed their old Victorian painted signs: "No parents beyond this point."

Some parents, on the other hand, may feel intimidated by schools and teachers. All parents were once pupils and some still harbour unhappy memories. Teachers and school buildings make them feel threatened and wary: feelings which sometimes masquerade as aggression or which prevent them from ever coming to the school.

On the ball: a mother helps with netball at the Thomas Telford School, Shropshire

In the middle of all this are the pupils who, as they grow into adolescence, may succumb to the temptation to play off one group of disunited adults against the other — and that is the root of many secondary school problems which get in the way of effective teaching and learning.

Good secondary schools are working hard to break down these barriers and to open the way for constructive parental involvement based on rapport and trust. This is increasingly seen as an important way to improve the quality of secondary education.

● *Susan Elkins's report* Working with Parents. *£1.50 from City Technology College Trust, 9 Whitehall, London SW1A 2DD.*

A prize date at the Palace

Competition is expected to be fierce among British universities and colleges for the chance to earn their place in the sun at Buckingham Palace to receive one of the Queen's Anniversary Prizes, *David Charter writes.*

Twenty-one "world-class" projects were chosen by the judges for the first awards in 1994 from a field of more than 350 entries. The successful institutions won high praise from the Queen at the awards ceremony for their demonstrations of the spirit of "enterprise, resourcefulness and flair" to be found at higher and further education institutions.

The Queen said: "They are an impressive reflection of the great diversity of work taking place and an insight into many different areas in which institutions are directing their activities at international, national and local levels."

Under the scheme, which will run every other year until 2002, universities and colleges are invited to enter one project or area of work demonstrating national excellence. It must have been started or renewed within the past three years and the benefit arising from it must be likely to continue for at least five years beyond the closing date.

Last year's winners includranged from courses at Aberdeen College in explosion safety management, after the Piper Alpha disaster, and in heritage and conservation at Bournemouth University.

Widening access to education was one area which caught the judges' eye in the inaugural awards. City & Islington College, in London, was praised for helping students to make the most of their abilities by offering study directly relevant to their lives, and a mentor scheme tackling the lack of role models for black students.

Croydon College won its award for its flexible learning workshops which allowed students to fit study around their own lifestyle.

Internet address: Apprentice-Master Alliance, featured on last week's Education page, can be found on http://www.worldserver.pipex.com/nc/ISI/master.html

THE QUEEN'S ANNIVERSARY PRIZES FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION
The 1996 Round

UNIVERSITIES and colleges in the United Kingdom are invited to enter the second biennial round of The Queen's Anniversary Prizes for Higher and Further Education.

The scheme highlights the excellence and diversity of higher and further education by recognising outstanding achievement in these sectors.

The subject of an entry may be any existing area of work or project for an institution.

The closing date for entries is April 30, 1996.

Prizewinners will be announced at St James's Palace and in *The Times* in autumn 1996.

Prizes will be presented by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in early 1997.

For details, please write to:
The Director, The Queen's Prizes Office,
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THE ROYAL ANNIVERSARY TRUST

New belt to buckle the power game

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT IN LAS VEGAS

AS BOXING followers have become used to the proliferation of world bodies in their sport it will not come as a surprise that yet another world title belt has joined the list.

The existence of the WBC, WBA, IBF, WBO, WBU, WBF, IBC, WBA and WAA prompted Seth Abraham, the head of Time Warner Sport, to say: "We are lucky that there are only 26 letters in the alphabet and we don't use Sanskrit. These belts only serve the purpose of belt manufacturers."

So, just to show that boxing can still manage without the ancient language, the new award is the NYDN belt. But before groans of exasperation fill the air, it should be said that the belt could be the belt to end all belts; with luck it could signal the end of world bodies that thrive on politics, greed and manipulation.

The belt has been donated by the *New York Daily News*. The newspaper, having been sickened by the unfair treatment of the world's leading heavyweights, particularly Riddick Bowe, by the three leading organisations — the World Boxing Council (WBC), the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the International Boxing Federation (IBF) — has decided to institute its own award for excellence.

Both Bowe and Evander Holyfield, who meet in their third encounter at Caesar's Palace here tomorrow, have agreed to compete for the new belt. Even though Bowe is the WBO champion, that belt will not be at stake so far as Holyfield is concerned. He does not want to box for it. "Evander just didn't want to fight for the WBO title," Bowe said. "Fine with me. I don't care."

Holyfield said: "Some guys, by having a belt, it puts them in a position of being able to command a lot more money. I don't have a belt and I can still do that, so what does it mean?"

The New York and Washington state athletic commissions have decided to recognise the NYDN belt as the award for the world heavyweight title. Mark Ratner, the executive director of the Nevada State Athletic Commission, said: "These two fighters are the best heavyweights in the world. I think the belt is a good idea."

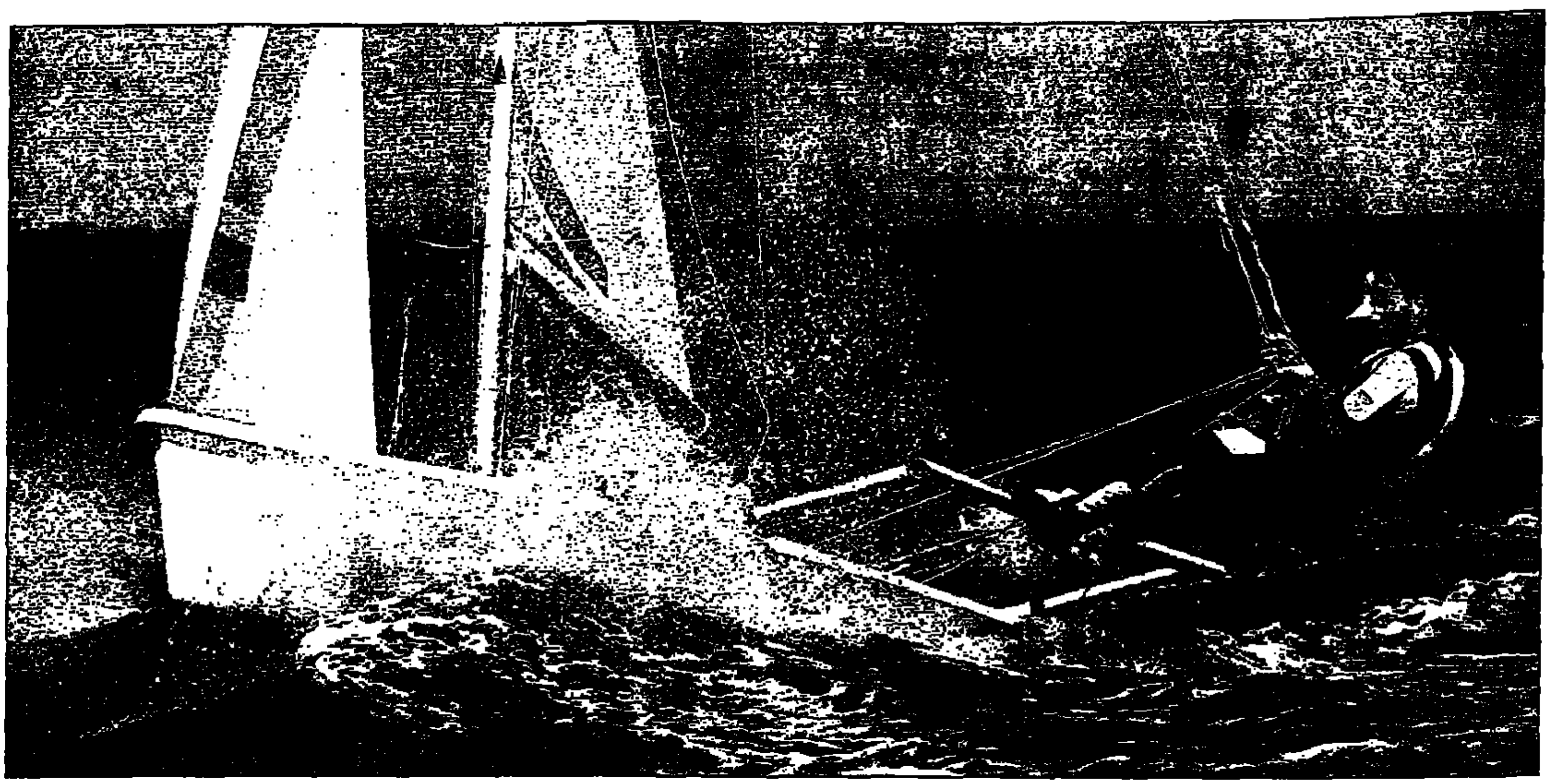
Eddie Futch, trainer of Bowe and one of the most respected figures in boxing, said: "This belt is better than any of the other belts because it represents the fight between two fighters who have both been active and always given their best. I think it should be recognised as the championship belt."

It would be a step in the right direction if other American and international commissions gave it recognition. Lennox Lewis is next in line to contest it and, by public demand, Mike Tyson would have to challenge for it one day.

Now that Tyson has bowed out of his proposed bout tomorrow with Buster Mathis Jr pleading a fractured thumb, the boxing world can concentrate on the third Bowe-Holyfield contest, with which it had been scheduled to clash.

This contest was always far better than the Tyson one, which would have lasted only one or two rounds. At least here the crowd can expect a bout as competitive as the last two, which were filled with dramatic action from start to finish.

Lewis, who is here to provide television commentary, will be at ringside to see the opponent he may be facing in March. But the main observer, whether ringside or at home in Las Vegas, will be Tyson, who will want to see the men he may one day have to meet.



The Laser 5000 showing adjustable racks, which can be altered to compensate for differing crew weights and lead to more exciting racing

Contenders aiming to set pulses racing

Barry Pickthall gets wind of two dinghies vying for competition places at the 2000 Olympic Games

A fresh initiative to make sailing more exciting to watch on the water and on television is to be launched at the International Yacht Racing Union's annual conference in Hamburg next week. Two dinghies vying for a place at the 2000 Olympic Games include the award-winning British-designed Laser 5000 and the exciting but highly-specialist 18ft skiff, whose origins on Sydney Harbour go back to the 19th century.

The Laser 5000, co-designed by Phil Morrison and Derek Clarke, the former America's Cup tactician, was launched two years ago with the Sydney Olympics in mind. Its twin trapeze and giant asymmetric spinnaker guarantee excitement both for competitors and spectators, but it is the boat's adjustable trapeze racks, balancing out variables in crew weight and leverage, that sets this design apart.

The concept, developed by Clarke, allows for lightweight crews typically from Asia to compete on equal terms with the heavyweights from the United States and Europe. It works like this: All-up crew weight, including clothing, is limited to 175 kilograms. Crews who tip the scales at less than this figure, have lead weights added to the centreline of their boat. The variable righting moment between crews is balanced by adjusting the trapeze racks before racing. In simple terms, lightweights sail with the racks fully extended, and heavyweights fly with the rack set at its minimum adjustment.

The invention has proved to be a remarkable equaliser. Richard and Ian Lovering, two former 470 Olympic class sailors weighing 130 kilograms, have been able to compete on equal terms with the former Wayfarer world champions, Jonathan and Simon Townsend, who tip the scales at the maximum 175 kilograms.

Costing £9,000, some 250 boats are now on the water and 69 competed in the Laser 5000 series televised on Sky Sport this year. Such has been the success that Audi has extended its sponsorship to £100,000 to cover the expanded series in Europe next year.

Richard Simmonds, the marketing director of Performance Sailcraft, said that they could have maximised the boat's performance by using exotic materials, but resisted. "We decided that the 5000 had to be both affordable, indestructible and would hold its value. Standard fibreglass construction was chosen to maximise longevity and equipment and sails are controlled to limit costs."

An 18ft skiff displays its potential off the Australian coast near Perth

By contrast, the 18ft skiff is at the opposite end of that spectrum. At £18,000 for a basic boat with three rigs to meet varied conditions, these exciting craft are made of costly aerospace materials to minimise weight. They have raced professionally for many years in Australia and New Zealand and spread this year to Britain.

Television interests are backing the skiff's claim to international and Olympic status in time to compete in the 2000 Olympics and are sponsoring a worldwide series which will bring the Australian skiff fleet to Britain for four regattas next summer. Remarkably, there will be no links with their British counterparts, which are tied to an ITV contract and will be racing in Europe at the time.

This lack of co-ordination within the class, could well count heavily against the skiff when it comes to the vote, but the concept of exhilarating racing and exciting television coverage, could win traditionalists over in Hamburg when it comes to deciding the type of events to be staged at the Sydney Games.

IN BRIEF

Norman forced to retire

ROSS NORMAN, 36, the London-based New Zealander who stunned the squash world in 1986 by ending the 5½-year undefeated run of Jahangir Khan to win the world open championship, has retired from competition.

Constant tendonitis in his right wrist has forced the decision on a player who won his first tournament at the age of 11, and overcame severe knee injuries from a parachuting accident at Thruxton, Hampshire, to reach the peak of his career against Jahangir at Toulouse, in France.

Courier through

Tennis: Jim Courier became the first player to reach the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open yesterday. The No 6 seed, from the United States, beat Magnus Larsson, of Sweden, 6-3, 6-4.

☐ Venus Williams, 15, defeated Amy Frazier, her fellow American, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the second round of the Bank of the West Classic in California.

Drivers cleared

Motor racing: Two Formula One drivers were cleared yesterday by the sport's governing body, the FIA, after admitting taking cold remedies containing banned substances. Rubens Barrichello, the Jordan-Peugeot driver, and Max Papis, who drives for Footwork-Hart, were tested at the European Grand Prix.

Britain win

Hockey: Britain's women warmed up for the Olympic Games qualifying tournament in South Africa with a 4-1 victory over Russia at Bisham Abbey yesterday, completing a hat-trick of wins in which they have scored 13 goals to Russia's one.

Veto expires

Table tennis: Chen Xinhua has been nominated to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games next year after the expiry of the six-year right of veto which his native China exercised in 1992.

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SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

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THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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The appointee will be expected to take a leading role in developing further the scale and quality of the University's activities in the spheres of research and postgraduate education as well as being the senior member of the Vice-Chancellor's advisory team. When necessary the appointee will deputize for the Vice-Chancellor.

Where appropriate, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor will be appointed to an Honorary Professorship.

The salary for the post will be not less than the average of the non-clinical professorial range, which is currently HK$103,815 per month. The term of appointment will be negotiated with the selected appointee, but will be for not less than 3 years. There is no set retirement age for the post. The appointment may carry either membership of the University's superannuation fund, or a gratuity of 15% of the salary earned during the appointee's service. Housing, passages, leave, and health care are among the benefits also provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (44428), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel. 0171 387 8572 ext. 206; fax 0171 813 3055; email: appts.acu@ucl.ac.uk), or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (fax: [852] 2559 2058; E-mail: APPTUNIT@REG.HKU.HK). Particulars are also available on the University's listserv accessed by E-mail as "listserv@hkuvm1.hku.hk" (specify "get apptment filelist" for list of vacant posts).

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Excellent management and communication skills will be required, with a preference for previous, directly relevant experience.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar (Administration), University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, (Tel. 01865 270003), to whom applications with a curriculum vitae and the names of two referees should be sent by 1 December 1995.

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It is anticipated that applicants will have recently completed (or are about to complete) a PhD degree in an area of research that is currently being pursued within the University and, if successful will be attached to the research programme of a specific department.

Applicants are advised to make informal contact with the head of the department with which they wish to be associated before submitting their application.

Further particulars and application forms (returnable by November 24th 1995) are available from the Director of Personnel, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL (tel. 0161 275 2028). Quote ref. 316/95.

As an Equal Opportunities Employer, the University welcomes applications from suitably qualified people from all sections of the community regardless of race, religion, gender or disability.

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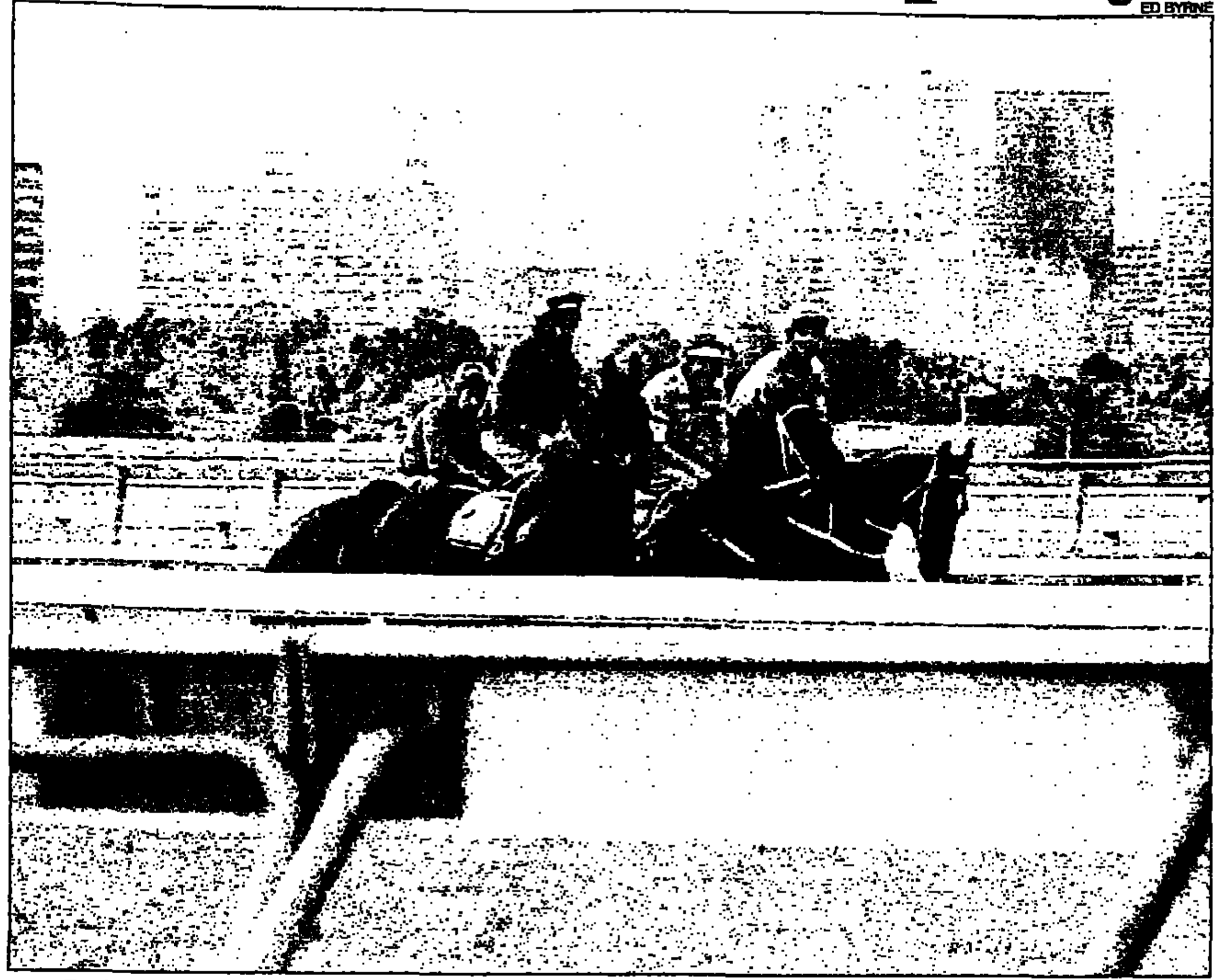
هكذا من الاصل

صورة من الاصل

Johnston latches on to party spirit

From Julian Muscat
in Melbourne


ED BYRNE

Early-morning workers exercise at Flemington racecourse against a backcloth of Melbourne's city centre

WHEN you are on unfamiliar terrain, nothing eases the anxiety quite like the rhythms of a trusty steed. Mark Johnston would certainly vouchsafe the feeling after spending the morning with Double Trigger here yesterday.

It was a low-key trainer who addressed allcomers within hours of his arrival on Wednesday morning. Then, Johnston had been afforded just 30 minutes with his redoubtable chestnut, the 5-1 favourite for the Melbourne Cup on Tuesday. However, the Middleham handler was distinctly more upbeat yesterday in the wake of Double Trigger's work at Sandown racecourse, on the fringes of this endearing city.

"I was very nervous about *the race when I first arrived* because the horse didn't look as good as he can," he revealed. "I don't know why, but I felt we had come a long way for nothing."

The notion must have made for a miserable sense of *déja vu:* Johnston experienced an identical sentiment 12 months ago, when he arrived to assess the condition of Quick Ransom. He immediately recognised that the arduous journey had extinguished whatever chance Quick Ransom might have entertained.

However, if Double Trigger at first appeared a shade listless, the impression was quick to dissolve. Jason Weaver, the colt's regular rider, raised the tempo when he eased Double Trigger into a strong canter. The gambit offered a sharp contrast to the lengthy conditioning work of previous days. And Johnston noted all the right signs when the horse concluded his morning's business.

"I'm a lot happier now," he said. "Having his jockey on his back probably focused the horse's mind on the race to come. He did a lot less this morning but this time he got himself into a bit of a sweat. He was bucking and kicking and biting at everything, which was particularly pleasing to see. Jason was very satisfied."

Johnston's mood of optimism coincided with the arrival here of Mike Dillon, the public relations director of Ladbrokes, who brought with him details of an interesting market move. "We are quoting Double Trigger at 4-1, which is two points shorter than he was after his bad run in the Prix du Cadran," he said. "The majority of that money has come from Australia, which might illustrate the strength — or lack of it — of the home team."

Dillon's observation tallies with the local perception that genuine Australian stayers are thin on the ground. Many seasoned observers believe their beloved Melbourne Cup is destined for export, but are divided over whether Double Trigger or Vintage Crop, the Dermot Weld-trained winner two years ago, will make off with the prize.

As the big day approaches, a cocktail of excitement and anticipation laces the air. Each major racing event is encased in its own traditions. Yet none is quite as compelling as the "*Breakfast With The Stars*", an annual gathering where the hordes journey to the racecourse for their free breakfast and champagne.

It was heartwarming to reach Flemington, at 6.30am, to find 6,000 citizens of Melbourne in truly boisterous form. As the spirits soared, so, too, did the truancy rate within the city's offices. Most of the Melbourne Cup's main contenders were galloped in front of the throng but their presence was almost incidental. The occasion was about heralding the imminence of the Melbourne Cup, an event so large in the nation's psyche that words demonstrably fail it.

A handful of cognoscenti were glued to their binoculars. And as the escalators sweep you up towards the top of the grandstand, you can marvel at murals portraying chapters of the glorious history to surround this two-mile race. But the majority arrived at Flemington to raise a glass to nothing more than their own existence. It was a celebration of life itself.

How sad it is to reflect that our own Derby, once accorded a similar niche in the hearts of British people, has proved wholly incapable of sustaining the party spirit.

Reimei strongly supported after Dettori booking

REG AKEHURST, the Epsom trainer renowned for his handicap successes, triggered another ante-post plunge yesterday. He booked the champion jockey, Frankie Dettori, for Reimei in the Tote Credit November Handicap at Doncaster tomorrow, and the six-year-old's odds were quickly cut by William Hill from 20-1 to 12-1.

The weights are due to rise 2lb in this race with the original top-weights, Capias (16-1), Naked Welcome (14-1) and Better Offer (20-1), all having been removed from the betting lists.

This puts Reimei — originally handicapped at 6st 10lb — in the race at 8st 3lb, the champion's minimum weight. Reimei won two of his six outings last season but has had just the one run this year, when dead-heating for third place with Sharp Falcon behind Indigo Time at Ascot last month.

The Lord Huntingdon-trained Snow Princess, who will be ridden by Richard Hills, is the 4-1 favourite (from 9-2) with Hills and the same price (from 5-1) with Ladbrokes, who then bet: 6-1 Whitechapel, 7-1 Dato Star, 10-1 Foundry Lane, Indigo Time, Royal Scimitar, 12-1 Proton, Beauchamp Jade, 14-1 and upwards others.

The Harrow-based firm reported that the early support in the Mackeson Gold Cup, at Cheltenham on Saturday week, has been for Buckboard Bounce (10-1 from 12-1) and Big Matt (12-1 from 16-1). Other prices: 5-1 Coulton, 6-1 Dublin Flyer, 8-1 Egypt Mill Prince, Strong Platinum, 10-1 Bradbury Star, 14-1 Second Schedual, Camitrov, 16-1 bar.

Meanwhile, Gordon Richards is confident he has One Man fighting fit in readiness for the gelding's attempt to win the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup for the second year in a row.

One Man is due to make his comeback in the Sean Graham Motherwell Chase at Ayr tomorrow week before tackling the Newbury handicap on November 25.

The Greystoke trainer said: "One Man is already as straight as he was at this time last year and he will definitely be going to Ayr unless the ground is like cement. I want Jodami to run in the Ayr race because he'll give us a good test and will keep the handicap right. We've then got a nice break of two weeks before Newbury."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TILTY
(1.10 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Ballindoo
(2.10 Uttoxeter)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Edinburgh

Going: soft

1.40 (5f) 1, Queens Check (S Webster, 11-1); 2, Frances Mary (8-1); 3, Amoeba (9-2). Corniche Quest 2-1 fav. 8 ran. ½l, 2½l. Miss J Craze. Tote: £32.30; £1.50, £1.40, £3.10. DF: £31.10. CSF: £90.62.

2.10 (1m 7f) 1, Merit (T Quinn, 5-1 jt-fav); 2, Tremendisto (14-1); 3, Eau De Cologne (13-1); 4, Opera Buff (12-1). Ballymac Girl 5-1 jt-fav. 16 ran. 5l, sh hd. P Cole. Tote: £4.50; £1.10, £3.90, £4.30. DF: £33.30. Trio: £234.60. CSF: £82.78. Tricast: £638.08. True Bird (14-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in the pound.

2.40 (1m 4f) 1, La Brief (G Bardwell, 14-1); 2, Green Land (9-1); 3, Kalou (10-1). Meghdool 7-2 fav. 14 ran. 1l, 5l. M Ryan. Tote: £23.50; £3.20, £2.90, £3.60. DF: £149.50. Trio: not won. CSF: £125.51.

3.10 (7f) 1, Prospector's Cove (G Bardwell, 8-1); 2, Scanicris (5-1); 3, Katie Komaite (25-1). Academy Of Dance 7-2 jt-fav. 14 ran. 3l, 1l. J Pearce. Tote: £7.70; £2.40, £1.20, £4.20. DF: £37.30. Trio: £174.50. CSF: £33.27.

3.40 (1m) 1, Santillana (L Dettori, 2-5 fav); 2, Classic Ballet (25-1); 3, Fly Fishing (4-1). 8 ran. 1¾l, 3l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.30; £1.00, £2.00, £1.40. DF: £9.00. CSF: £12.62.

4.10 (1m) 1, Best Of All (J Carroll, 33-1); 2, Penmar (16-1); 3, Field Of Vision (10-1). Super High 3-1 fav. 14 ran. 1½l, 4l. J Berry. Tote: £33.80; £4.90, £6.30, £4.40. DF: £195.00. Trio: £504.20. CSF: £439.17. Tricast: £5046.21.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £8,927.20 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £1829.20. Quadpot: £58.00.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

1.30 (1m 4f) 1, Elementary (J Stack, 11-10 fav); 2, Sir Norman Holt (10-1); 3, What's Secreto (50-1). 12 ran. 5l, 6l. N Walker. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £2.20, £4.50. DF: £12.70. Trio: £232.70. CSF: £11.10.

2.00 (5f) 1, Beeny (J Tate, 6-1); 2, Time For Tea (9-2); 3, Foreman (14-1). Lady Caroline Lamb 15-8 fav. 10 ran. 2½l, 1l. A P Jarvis. Tote: £8.40; £2.60, £2.20, £3.40. DF: £14.70. Trio: £110.90. CSF: £31.25. Tricast: £326.98.

2.30 (5f) 1, Friendly Brave (A Whelan, 100-30 fav); 2, Speedy Classic (5-1); 3, Tee-Emm (12-1). 10 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l. Miss G Kelleway. Tote: £5.80; £2.30, £2.20, £2.00. DF: £32.80. Trio: £82.80. CSF: £20.44.

3.00 (7f) 1, Joyful (G Hind, 5-1); 2, Sombreffe (Evens fav); 3, Dancing Sioux (16-1). 11 ran. Sh hd, 4l. J Gosden. Tote: £6.80; £2.10, £1.10, £3.00. DF: £3.20. Trio: £10.60. CSF: £9.89.

3.30 (1m) 1, Set The Fashion (D Harrison, 8-1); 2, Present Situation (5-2 fav); 3, Bentico (8-1). 12 ran. 1l, 1½l. D L Williams. Tote: £8.70; £3.10, £1.70, £3.70. DF: £8.70. Trio: £17.50. CSF: £27.89. Tricast: £158.29.

4.00 (1m 2f) 1, No Speeches (Mr T McCarthy, 6-1); 2, Tadellal (6-1); 3, Maenun (8-1). Bold Habit 4-1 fav. 14 ran. 1¾l, sh hd. S Dow. Tote: £6.50; £2.20, £3.20, £2.30. DF: £28.60. Trio: £204.00. CSF: £45.23. Tricast: £280.55.

Placepot: £99.10. Quadpot: £47.40.

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm, good in places

1.20 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Dancing Dove (B Harding, 5-2 fav); 2, Lucy Tufty (100-30); 3, Strong John (14-1). 9 ran. NR: Cast the Line. 3½l, 4l. G Richards. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £1.50, £2.70. DF: £3.60. Trio: £38.90. CSF: £11.30. Tricast: £69.54.

1.50 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Can Can Charlie (P Hide, 4-1); 2, Rudi's Pride (16-1); 3, Nonios (5-2 fav). 15 ran. 3l, nk. J Pearce. Tote: £3.80; £2.20, £6.10, £2.00. DF: £43.70. Trio: £294.00. CSF: £70.37.

2.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, Change The Reign (J R Kavanagh, 9-2); 2, Jimmy O'Dea (14-1); 3, Royal Saxon (9-2). Stague Fort 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 3l, 14l. Miss A Embiricos. Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.20, £1.70. DF: £49.20. CSF: £56.40.

2.50 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Gymcrak Tiger (A Maguire, 11-4); 2, Britannia Mills (10-1); 3, Barney's Gift (9-1). Val De Rama 9-4 fav. 7 ran. 1l, 3l. G Holmes. Tote: £3.30; £1.40, £3.90, £. DF: £19.40. CSF: £26.31.

3.20 (2m 4f ch) 1, Paris Fashion (T Jenks, 7-4); 2, Fighting Trout (11-1); 3, Final Beat (14-1). Earlymorning Light 13-8 fav. 7 ran. 4l, 3l. N Twiston-Davies. Tote: £2.70; £2.00, £2.50. DF: £13.20. CSF: £19.39.

3.50 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Asking (L Harvey, 12-1); 2, Cuillin Caper (20-1); 3, On A Pedestal (100-30). Sleepy Dam 5-2 fav. 13 ran. ½l, 2l. J Bennett. Tote: £29.30; £4.40, £6.00, £1.50. DF: £312.80. Trio: £293.20. CSF: £219.35.

Placepot: £319.20. Quadpot: £15.90.

DONCASTER SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Armstrong, 15 winners from 45 runners, 33.3%; J Gosden, 37 from 144, 25.7%; H Cecil, 26 from 103, 25.2%; G Wragg, 13 from 52, 25.0%; B Hills, 29 from 140, 20.7%; R Charlton, 6 from 29, 20.7%.

JOCKEYS: R Price, 5 winners from 23 rides, 21.7%; R Hughes, 4 from 19, 21.1%; M Hills, 25 from 149, 16.8%; L Dettori, 28 from 188, 14.9%; R Hills, 12 from 81, 14.8%; W Carson, 34 from 238, 14.3%.

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

12.50 Private Song
1.20 Kerry Ring
1.50 Marawis
2.20 Ahla
2.50 Sue's Artiste
3.20 Dande Flyer
3.50 Tsarnista
4.20 **CHARLIE SILLETT** (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 **QUILLING.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.20 Kerry Ring.
1.50 **MARAWIS** (nap). 3.50 Brighstone.

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

12.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FLANDERS MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: 2-Y-O: £4,281: 7f) (18 runners)

101	(6)	0	FLYING HAROLD 15 (M Allen) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	▣
102	(10)		LITUUS (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	–
103	(18)		MARIGLIANO (S Al Kabeer) M Stoute 9-0	K Bradshaw	–
104	(15)		MATTIMED (Mrs M Keogh) A Jarvis 9-0	J Tate	–
105	(9)		MAWINGO (Mrs C Lilley) G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	–
106	(17)		ONE DREAM (One Dream Partnership) B Smart 9-0	S Sanders	–
107	(13)		PHILOSOPHER (M Kelly (New Jersey)) R Hannon 9-0	J Reid	–
108	(11)		PRIVATE SONG (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0	W Ryan	–
109	(4)		PUBLIC REPROOF (Middleham Park Racing I) P Haslam 9-0	V Halliday	–
110	(3)		RAGSAK JAMEEL (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) W Hern 9-0	T Sprake	–
111	(5)	0	TOTALLY DIFFERENT 132 (T Morris) G Oldroyd 9-0	L Charnock	–
112	(7)		WAHIBA SANDS (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 9-0	W Carson	–
113	(14)	0	FARFESTE 11 (B Tallentire and J Cameron) D Morris 8-9	R Cochrane	83
114	(2)	0	FLAME OF HOPE 49 (Duke of Marlborough) J Dunlop 8-9	T Quinn	–
115	(1)		HIPPY (D Sieff) C Brittain 8-9	K Darley	–
116	(16)		LIEFLING (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	J Carroll	–
117	(8)		MY MOTHER'S LOCAL (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 8-9	S Whitworth	–
118	(12)		NORTHERN MIRACLE (J Ratcliffe) C Wall 8-9	G Duffield	–

BETTING: 3-1 Lituus, 5-1 Marigliano, 6-1 Ragsak Jameel, 7-1 Liefling, 8-1 Mawingo, 10-1 others.

1994: GRANDINARE 9-0 S Whitworth (15-2) P Chapple-Hyam 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

LITUUS (foaled Feb 28). By El Gran Senor, brother to smart 6f-1m2f winner Young Senor; dam multiple winner in North America. MAWINGO (cost 15,000gns, foaled Mar 4). By Taufan; dam 7f winner. PRIVATE SONG (foaled Feb 15). By Private Account, dam grade II winner in North America. RAGSAK JAMEEL (cost 32,000gns, foaled Jan 14). Northern Baby half-brother to useful 1m-1m2f winner Party Cited; dam winner in North America. WAHIBA SANDS (cost 7,800gns, foaled Mar 11). Pharly half-brother to Medaille Militaire, progressive 1m/1m2f handicapper; dam 1m winner in North America.
No selection

1.20 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND FLANDERS MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: 2-Y-O: £4,281: 7f) (18 runners)

201	(2)	05	A-AASEM 51 (H Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0	R Hills	75
202	(5)		ARTERXERXES (P Lowe & Partners) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	A Clark	–
203	(16)		CHARLIE CHANG (J Horgan) R Hannon 9-0	R Perham	–
204	(3)	00	DANCING CAVALIER 33 (The Three R's) R Hollinshead 9-0	T Ives	–
205	(13)		DAYDREAMER (A Speelman) J Gosden 9-0	J Carroll	–
206	(11)		FORMIDABLE PARTNER (G Ward) R Armstrong 9-0	J Reid	–
207	(8)		IRISH KINSMAN (P Willis) P Walwyn 9-0	D Harrison	–
208	(4)	6	JACKSON HILL 24 (J Wolfensohn) R Charlton 9-0	T Sprake	88
209	(9)	50	PASTERNAK 11 (G Rock) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	78
210	(12)		RADIANT STAR (J Pearce) G Wragg 9-0	M Hills	–
211	(10)	0	TOM SWIFT 16 (P Gwilliam) R Spicer 9-0	Dean McKeown	–
212	(14)	6	DISTINCT BEAUTY 9 (N Yong) W O'Gorman 8-9	Emma O'Gorman	93
213	(17)	02	EWAR SUNRISE 11 (A Richards) C Brittain 8-9	K Darley	▣
214	(18)	6	FAITH ALONE 16 (Mrs R Neave) C Wall 8-9	N Carlisle	–
215	(6)		HIGH ATLAS (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-9	K Fallon	–
216	(1)		KERRY RING (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-9	L Dettori	–
217	(7)	0	PARSA 17 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 8-9	W Carson	93
218	(15)		PERSIAN DAWN (RDM Racing) D Chappell 8-9	W Woods	–

BETTING: 7-4 Kerry Ring, 5-1 Jackson Hill, 6-1 High Atlas, 8-1 Radiant Star, 10-1 Daydreamer, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

FORM FOCUS

CHARLIE CHANG (foaled Apr 4). By Don't Forget Me; dam 1m 3f winner in France. DAYDREAMER (foaled Feb 26). By Alleged; dam grade II winner in North America. FORMIDABLE PARTNER (cost 51,000gns, foaled Apr 12). Formidable half-brother to Talowm, 5f-7f winner in Ireland; dam unraced. JACKSON HILL 9l 6th to Don Micheletto in maiden at Leicester (7f, good). RADIANT STAR (foaled Feb 5). By Rainbow Quest; dam 6f juvenile winner. EWAR SUNRISE 2l 2nd to Jazyah in maiden at Lingfield (7f, good). KERRY RING (foaled Feb 3). By Sadler's Wells; dam won group I Cherry Hinton Stakes, and runner-up in 1,000 Guineas.
No selection

1.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND DUNKIRK MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £5,022: 6f) (22 runners)

301	(10)	00	APPEAL AGAIN 11 (C Webster) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	M Deering	71
302	(3)		ATTARIKH (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 9-0	W Carson	–
303	(21)	25	AUTOBABBLE 156 (BF) (B Adams) R Hannon 9-0	R Perham	95
304	(22)		BACKWOODS (Sheikh Mohammed) G Wragg 9-0	W Woods	–
305	(14)	0	BOWLERS BOY 18 (Bowlers Racing) J Quinn 9-0	M Birch	–
306	(1)	05	CIRCUS STAR 21 (N Craig) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	87
307	(9)	0	EXTREMELY FRIENDLY 9 (W Gredley) C Brittain 9-0	K Darley	88
308	(12)	02	GREEN BARRIES 20 (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Johnston 9-0	T Williams	87
309	(2)	0	HAWKSLEY HILL 14 (H Alexander) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	–
310	(11)		LEAD HIM ON (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 9-0	G Hind	–
311	(8)		MAJOR QUALITY (Mrs M Watt) J Fanshawe 9-0	D Harrison	–
312	(5)	5	MARAWIS 15 (H Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0	R Hills	▣
313	(4)	5	NATAL RIDGE 11 (G Weaks) D Haydn Jones 9-0	T Ives	79
314	(19)		SAHHAR (R Arculli) R Armstrong 9-0	R Price	–
315	(16)	04	SEA DANZIG 7 (P Cook) P Howling 9-0	R Cochrane	90
316	(6)	0540	SHARP PEARL 13 (D Yardy) R Charlton 9-0	DOUBTFUL	–
317	(20)	06	CHAVIN POINT 31 (Advance Stock) Miss L Siddall 8-9	D McKeown	–
318	(7)	00	FIONA SHANN 15 (Exors of Mrs E Ogden White) J Dunlop 8-9	R Hughes	90
319	(13)		MISS RIVIERA (J Pearce) G Wragg 8-9	M Hills	–
320	(15)	00	OATEY 11 (R Barnett) Mrs J Ramsden 8-9	J Egan	80
321	(17)	0	SHARP 'N' SHADY 11 (W Wallick) C Wall 8-9	W Lord	–
322	(18)		YEZZA (Mrs M Keogh) A Jarvis 8-9	J Tate	–

BETTING: 5-2 Marawis, 7-2 Attarikh, 6-1 Miss Riviera, 7-1 Green Barries, 8-1 Sea Danzig, 10-1 others.

1994: SCENIC HEIGHTS 9-0 R Price (11-2) R Armstrong 20 ran

FORM FOCUS

ATTARIKH (foaled Mar 11). By Mujtahid; dam unraced. CIRCUS STAR 7¾l 5th of 11 to Singing Patriarch in maiden at Catterick (6f, good to firm). GREEN BARRIES 3½l 2nd of 14 to Johayro in maiden at Catterick (5f, good to firm). MAJOR QUALITY (foaled Mar 9). By Sizzling Melody, brother to 5f winner Breakfast Boogie; dam 1m2f winner in France. MARAWIS (foaled Feb 22). Danzig half-brother to fair 6f winner Aweyit; dam multiple 5f/6f winner. SEA DANZIG 4½l 4th of 8 to Farhana in maiden at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). MISS RIVIERA (foaled Mar 26). By Kris; dam 6f-1m2f winner.
No selection

2.20 ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CONDITIONS STAKES
(£5,024: 1m 6f 132yd) (7 runners)

401	(6)	1-66305	KINGS CAY 111 (F,S) (R Jones) T Caldwell 4-9-5	J Carroll	66
402	(7)	15-	CAMPAIGN 445 (F) (Spectrum) M Hammond 4-9-2	L Dettori	87
403	(2)	4-6101	CHIEF BEE 28 (F,S) (Mrs M Burrell) J Dunlop 4-9-1	K Darley	98
404	(4)	20/50-	OUTSET 426 (M Kilner) M Hammond 5-9-0	S Drowne (3)	66
405	(3)	161400	DODDINGTON FLYER 17 (CD,G) (J Bower) R Hollinshead 3-8-11	W Ryan	67
406	(1)	02	FIGHTING TIMES 59 (C Hitchings) C Smith 3-8-5	A Culhane	80
407	(5)	031366	AHLA 48 (F) (H Al Maktoum) R Armstrong 3-8-4	W Carson	▣

BETTING: 4-5 Chief Bee, 4-1 Ahla, 6-1 Fighting Times, 7-1 Campaign, 14-1 Kings Cay, 16-1 Doddington Flyer, 25-1 Outset.

1994: TRANS SIBERIA 3-9-1 W Woods (11-8 fav) S Woods 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

KINGS CAY 12½l 5th of 9 to Jameel Asmar in a handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good). CAMPAIGN beat Lombardic ½l in a 7-runner maiden at Ripon (1m 2f, good to firm) last season. CHIEF BEE beat Minnesota Viking 7l in a 12-runner amateurs handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, good to soft). OUTSET 11½l 5th of 15 to Rory Creek in a maiden at Ripon (1m, good to firm) last season. DODDINGTON FLYER best recent effort about 3½l 4th of 9 to Celeric in a handicap at Nottingham (1m 6f, good to firm). FIGHTING TIMES neck 2nd of 5 to Kshessinskaya in a maiden at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yd, firm). AHLA best recent effort head and 3l 3rd of 8 to Celeric in a handicap at Newbury (1m 5f 61yd, good).
Selection: CHIEF BEE (nap)

2.50 UNKNOWN SOLDIER FILLIES CONDITIONS STAKES
(£5,117: 1m 2f 60yd) (7 runners)

501	(4)	003016	SUE'S ARTISTE 34 (CD,G,S) (A Morton) B Hills 4-9-8	M Hills	94
502	(3)	360610	STRUTTING 6 (D,G,S) (M Grant) R Hannon 3-9-1	Dane O'Neill (5)	▣
503	(2)	302200	QUIVIRA 27 (D,F,G) (M Kirby) T Clement 4-8-12	M Rimmer	93
504	(6)	1	MOUNTAINS OF MIST 167 (D,F) (S Niarchos) R Charlton 3-8-11	J Reid	90
505	(5)	341500	CRIMSON SHOWER 22 (G) (Mrs D Russell) J Fanshawe 3-8-7	L Dettori	69
506	(7)	00-0600	MISS IRON HEART 48 (B) (A MacGillivray) D Cosgrove 3-8-7	L Newton (5)	–
507	(1)	6	REGAL PORTRAIT 106 (M Poland) H Cecil 3-8-7	W Ryan	–

BETTING: 5-2 Mountains Of Mist, 3-1 Sue's Artiste, Regal Portrait, 7-2 Strutting, 9-1 Crimson Shower, 12-1 Quivira, 50-1 Miss Iron Heart.

1994: GRECIAN SLIPPER 3-9-3 K Darley (5-1) W Hern 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

SUE'S ARTISTE beat Braille 2½l in 25-runner handicap over course and distance (good to soft) on penultimate start. STRUTTING beat Celtic Fringe 8l in conditions race at Chepstow (1m 2f, good to soft) on penultimate start. MOUNTAINS OF MIST beat Syrian Queen short-head in 11-runner maiden at Newbury (1m 2f, good to firm). CRIMSON SHOWER best recent effort about 1½l 5th of 17 to Kindergarten Boy in handicap at Windsor (1m 67yd, good to firm). REGAL PORTRAIT 11l 6th to Grand Du Lac in maiden at Sandown (1m, good).
Selection: MOUNTAINS OF MIST

3.20 NORMANDY BEACHES NURSERY HANDICAP
(2-Y-O: £3,883: 5f) (11 runners)

601	(4)	221	MUSIC GOLD 29 (D,F) (N Yong) W O'Gorman 9-7	Emma O'Gorman	90
602	(9)	411042	NO MONKEY NUTS 24 (D,F) (The Monkey Racing Club Ltd) J Berry 9-6	J Carroll	96
603	(5)	35210	REPATRIATE 22 (D,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-3	J Reid	91
604	(6)	535403	POLLY GOLIGHTLY 13 (B,D,G) (D Sykes) B Smart 9-0	R Cochrane	94
605	(8)	401062	GAGAJULU 9 (D,F,G) (R Mason) P Evans 9-0	G Hind	90
606	(1)	250111	DANDE FLYER 7 (D,F,G) (Dandelion Dist) D Arbuthnot 8-10 (7ex)	D R McCabe (3)	▣
607	(11)	6002	AMBER FORT 34 (Lord Portman) P Cole 8-8	T Quinn	94
608	(10)	026103	ANTONIAS MELODY 7 (S) (Mrs B Georgiou) S Bowring 8-7	S Webster	95
609	(3)	002201	MISTER JOEL 10 (B,D,F) (P Jarvis) M W Easterby 8-6 (7ex)	L Dettori	84
610	(7)	540025	CAMIONNEUR 10 (B) (T F Freight (Scarborough) Ltd) M H Easterby 7-9	J Quinn	82
611	(2)	650520	SNITCH 21 (V) (G Batty) C Smith 7-7	N Carlisle	73

Long handicap: Snitch 6-13

BETTING: 5-2 Dande Flyer, 6-1 No Monkey Nuts, Polly Golightly, 13-2 Antonias Melody, 7-1 Amber Fort, 8-1 Repatriate, Music Gold, 10-1 others.

1994: PERRYSTON VIEW 8-11 Dale Gibson (5-1) P Calver 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

MUSIC GOLD beat Songsheet 1l in 5-runner maiden at York (5f, good to firm). NO MONKEY NUTS 2½l 2nd of 8 to Subzero in conditions race at Chepstow (6f, good to soft). POLLY GOLIGHTLY 1¾l 3rd of 14 to Lunar Mist in nursery at Newbury (6f, good to soft) with ANTONIAS MELODY (2lb better off) 5¾l 7th. DANDE FLYER beat Lady Caroline Lamb 2½l in nursery at Newmarket (5f, good to firm) with ANTONIAS MELODY (6lb better off) 1¾l 3rd. Previously beat GAGAJULU (6lb better off) 4l in 5-runner nursery at Yarmouth (5f, firm). AMBER FORT 2½l 2nd of 16 to King Of Peru in nursery at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). MISTER JOEL beat Time To Tango head in 11-runner maiden auction at Redcar (5f, firm).
Selection: DANDE FLYER

3.50 WESTERN DESERT CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £5,058: 1m str) (6 runners)

1	(4)	40221	HENRY THE FIFTH 13 (D,S) (A Richards) C Brittain 9-3	K Darley	▣
2	(5)	1	BRIGHSTONE 16 (F) (M Poland) H Cecil 9-1	W Ryan	89
3	(3)	43	CORPORAL NYM 160 (BF) (Sir George Meyrick) P Cole 8-11	T Quinn	84
4	(1)	1601	LA VOLTA 10 (F) (Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) J Fitzgerald 8-10	R Hughes	97
5	(6)	4021	TSARNISTA 11 (G) (I Stewart-Brown) J Dunlop 8-10	J Reid	96
6	(2)	2125	KIROV LADY 8 (F) (D Sale) R Hannon 8-6	Dane O'Neill (5)	93

BETTING: 5-4 Brighstone, 5-2 Henry The Fifth, 6-1 Tsarnista, 7-1 La Volta, 8-1 Corporal Nym, 10-1 Kirov Lady

1994: ROYAL PHILOSOPHER 8-8 J Tate (14-1) K McAuliffe 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

HENRY THE FIFTH beat More Than You Know 1¼l in 5-runner conditions race at Newbury (1m, good to soft). BRIGHSTONE beat Nasrudin 1¾l in 11-runner maiden at Yarmouth (7f, firm). CORPORAL NYM 1¾l 3rd of 5 to L'Ami Louis in conditions race at Kempton (6f, good to firm). LA VOLTA beat Roses In The Snow head in 5-runner conditions race at Redcar (7f, firm). TSARNISTA beat Royal Diversion 2l in 6-runner conditions race at Lingfield (7f, good). KIROV LADY 4l 2nd of 5 to Sea Spray in conditions race at Kempton (7f, good)
Selection: LA VOLTA

4.20 POPPY HANDICAP (£5,051: 7f) (22 runners)

1	(13)	064200	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 27 (C,D,F,G,S) (A Collins) J Watts 7-9-13	G Duffield	94
2	(17)	6-02460	ELITE HOPE 49 (D,G) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 3-9-12	R Hughes	85
3	(1)	015500	BOLD AMUSEMENT 51 (C,F,G) (D Bell) W Cunningham 5-9-12	J F Egan	93
4	(5)	40-0510	NEVER EXPLAIN 58 (BF,F) (Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber) J Dunlop 3-9-12	W Carson	88
5	(2)	161200	SOMERTON BOY 27 (D,F,G) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 5-9-11	T Ives	95
6	(3)	431012	QUILLING 6 (D,F) (A Watson) M Dods 3-9-10 (6ex)	Dean McKeown	▣
7	(8)	061030	JOLTO 15 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs G Gooderham) K Cunningham-Brown 6-9-9	R Cochrane	94
8	(10)	201206	FIONN DE COOL 20 (F) (R Kilby) R Akehurst 4-9-9	T Quinn	91
9	(15)	16	STARRY EYED 56 (D,G) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 3-9-9	L Dettori	90
10	(7)	10-3610	CHARLIE SILLETT 23 (S) (J Sillett) B Hills 3-9-8	M Hills	92
11	(12)	0-52100	CUTPURSE MOLL 34 (V,D,F) (Dexa'tex Ltd) J Fanshawe 3-9-6	D Harrison	90
12	(20)	555000	NIZAAL 15 (D,G,S) (S Aitken) D Nicholls 4-9-5	B Peel (7)	89
13	(21)	524002	MISTER FIRE EYES 15 (CD,F,G,S) (C Olley) C Brittain 3-9-4	K Darley	91
14	(11)	504400	CUMBRIAN WALTZER 27 (F,G,S) (Cumbrian Ind) M H Easterby 10-9-4	M Birch	92
15	(18)	151300	HALMANERROR 27 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Smith) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-4	K Fallon	94
16	(22)	0-3222	GODMERSHAM PARK 25 (BF) (W Patterson) M Heaton-Ellis 3-9-2	J Reid	88
17	(6)	044006	D FACTOR 17 (C,S) (H Collis) D Haydn Jones 3-9-1	A Mackay	89
18	(4)	000010	EUPHYLLIA 6 (V,CD,F) (J Vaughan) Bob Jones 3-9-0	F Norton	96
19	(16)	506000	GADGE 27 (S) (J R Leisure Ltd) D Morris 4-8-11	J Carroll	96
20	(19)	204305	WINSOME WOOSTER 6 (G,S) (Miss A Reading) P Murphy 4-8-10	S Drowne (3)	94
21	(9)	260040	SYLVANDRA 15 (V,G) (Mrs P Wyatt) P Murphy 3-8-9	J Williams	98
22	(14)	122003	SUPER BENZ 10 (D,F,G,S) (Whitestonecliffe Racing) F O'Mahony 9-8-8	M Henry (5)	92

BETTING: 8-1 Quilling, 10-1 Fionn De Cool, Jolto, 12-1 Charlie Sillett, Halmanerror, Mister Fire Eyes, Starry Eyed, 14-1 Euphyllia, Godmersham Park, Sagebrush Roller, 16-1 Elite Hope, Never Explain, 20-1 others.

1994: JOLTO 5-8-7 C Teague (9-1) K Cunningham-Brown 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

SAGEBRUSH ROLLER best recent effort short-head 2nd to Mary's Case in handicap at Ayr (7f, good). NEVER EXPLAIN beat Venice Beach 1¼l in maiden at Ayr (1m 2f, good to firm) on penultimate start. QUILLING ½l 2nd to Mountgate in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with WINSOME WOOSTER (1lb better off) 4¼l 5th and EUPHYLLIA (1lb better off) 3¾l 11th. JOLTO 2¼l 3rd to Comanche Companion in handicap at York (7f, good) with HALMANERROR (3lb better off) 4¾l 9th, SAGEBRUSH ROLLER (2lb better off) 1l 11th, SOMERTON BOY (3lb better off) 1l 15th and CUMBRIAN WALTZER ½l 16th. STARRY EYED beat Fresh Fruit Daily 1¼l in maiden at Ascot (7f, good) on debut. MISTER FIRE EYES neck 2nd of 20 to Samba Sharply in handicap at Nottingham (1m, good to firm) with NIZAAL (6lb better off) 22l last. GODMERSHAM PARK 4l 2nd to Night Wink in apprentices maiden at Leicester (7f, good).
Selection: QUILLING

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

1.10 Crosa's Delight. 1.40 Finesse The King. 2.10 Bresil. 2.40 Dark Nightingale. 3.10 Harwell Lad. 3.40 Large Action. 4.10 Chicago's Best.

GOING: GOOD SIS

1.10 SANKEY VENDING APPROVED OPERATORS MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div I: £2,166: 3m 110yd) (9 runners)

1	40	BUSTER 22 Mrs B Waring 7-11-0	E Byrne	86
2	PBF-	CROSA'S DELIGHT 244 M Pipe 8-11-0	D Bridgwater	–
3	00-	HAG'S WAY 218 J Edwards 5-11-0	D Bentley	–
4	0-06	LITTLE TINCTURE 12 Mrs T McInnes Skinner 5-11-0	G Upton	86
5	30-2	SELDOM IN 104 R Brotherton 9-11-0	L Harvey	82
6	BP4-	SUNGIA 181 Graeme Roe 6-11-0	G Bradley	74
7	P54-	TILTY 8F A Streeter 5-11-0	T Eley	▣
8		PHILATELIC R Alner 4-10-13	A Maguire	–
9	/24	APACHEE FLOWER 34 H Howe 5-10-9	A P McCoy	91

5-2 Seldom In, 3-1 Hag's Way, 5-1 Buster, 6-1 Tilty, 7-1 Crosa's Delight, 8-1 Philatelic, 10-1 Sungia, Apachee Flower, 12-1 others.

1.40 SANKEY VENDING APPROVED OPERATORS MAIDEN HURDLE
(Div II: £2,155: 3m 110yd) (8)

1	P13-	CORN EXCHANGE 173P (F) R Price 7-11-0	A P McCoy	–
2	0/4-	FINESSE THE KING 407 N Twiston-Davies 7-11-0	T Jenks	87
3	0/	GIANO 946 R Hoad 7-11-0	G Bradley	–
4	P/	TAILSPIN 882 (B) Mrs J Scrivens 10-11-0	Mr B Pollock (5)	–
5	64-2	UNCLE KEENY 7 (B,BF,S) J J O'Neill 5-11-0	M Dwyer	▣
6	000-	FADI 31F F Jordan 4-10-13	J Lodder	77
7		EDINA K Bailey 5-10-9	R Dunwoody	–
8	0-0	KIRKADIAN 12 N Bycroft 5-10-9	M A Fitzgerald	–

6-4 Uncle Keeny, 5-2 Finesse The King, 3-1 Edina, 7-1 Corn Exchange, 14-1 Giano, Fadi, 33-1 others.

2.10 GUINNESS BREWING NOVICES SELLING HURDLE (£2,110: 2m 4f 110yd) (16)

1	4301	BALLINDOO 13 (D,F) T Donnelly 6-11-5	Mr R Armson	88
2	2338	WITHOUT A FLAG 31 (C,F) J White 5-11-5	P McLoughlin	92
3	/PP-	BRESIL 34F K Burke 6-10-12	A Larnach (3)	–
4	2P6-	DESERT PRESIDENT 165F R Hoad 4-10-12	G Bradley	▣
5		FULL QUIVER 37F (V) Mrs B Waring 10-10-12	E Byrne	–
6	/P3-	ILE DE SOO 311 R Hoad 9-10-12	M Dwyer	–
7		MORSKI 24F T Bill 6-10-12	J Railton	–
8	-5UP	PALACE PARADE 2 N Ayliffe 5-10-12	Mr J Culloty (7)	88
9		PLUM DENNIS 115F N Bycroft 4-10-12	D Towler (7)	–
10	00P-	QUICK DECISION 200 J Cresswell 4-10-12	M Kolostne (7)	–
11	UU/	SCORPIONS TALE 580P D O'Brien 8-10-12	Mr E James	–
12	/5P-	TIGERSONG 8F Miss M Milligan 5-10-12	M A Fitzgerald	–
13	/P4	MERRYHILL MADAM 13 P Bradley 6-10-7	T Eley	70
14	63F2	REIGNING ROYAL 22 D Burchell 4-10-7	D J Burchell	88
15	30-3	SPRINGTIME AFFAIR 9 Mrs N Macauley 4-10-7	Mr R Johnson (5)	80
16	0P60	VISION OF LIGHT 9 H Oliver 5-10-7	Jacqui Oliver	70

4-1 Reigning Royal, 5-1 Without A Flag, 6-1 Springtime Affair, Ballindoo, 7-1 Merryhill Madam, 8-1 Tigersong, 10-1 Bresil, 12-1 others.

Blinkered first time

DONCASTER: 4.20 Euphyllia, Sylvandra. HEXHAM: 2.30 Live And Let Live. UTTOXETER: 1.40 Uncle Keeny. 2.10 Full Quiver. 2.40 Zahid.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

1.30 Two For One. 2.00 George Ashford. 2.30 Heathview. 3.00 Yacht Club. 3.30 Supertop. 4.00 Green's Seago.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

1.30 ROBSON BROWN MAIDEN CHASE
(£2,672: 3m 1f) (4 runners)

1	55-4	AYLESBURY LAD 27 D Lamb 6-11-5	Mr A Manners (7)
2	2323	MISTI HUNTER 6 Miss M Milligan 6-11-5	R Guest
3	023-	MORE JOY 169 Mrs L Marshall 7-11-5	G Lee (3)
4	2	TWO FOR ONE 20 (G) Miss L Russell 6-11-5	P Niven

Evens Two For One, 2-1 Misti Hunter, 3-1 Aylesbury Lad, 16-1 More Joy

2.00 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,422: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1	3414	GEORGE ASHFORD 23 (F) K Morgan 5-11-7	A S Smith
2	/0P-	ANOTHER MEADOW 269 J Dixon 7-11-0	A Dobbin
3	50-0	BLUE CHARM 20 Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-0	T Reed
4	306-	HEDDON HAUGH 174 P Cheesbrough 7-11-0	R Supple
5	00-5	PERSUASIVE TALENT 27 D Lamb 4-11-0	Mr A Manners (7)
6	630-	ANASTASIA WINDSOR 160 D Moffatt 4-10-9	D J Moffatt
7	PP0-	CITY LIGHTER 202 J Gledson 5-10-9	N Bentley
8	24-4	EMERALD CHARM 145 J Charlton 7-10-9	B Storey
9	03-	WHITER MORN 157 Mrs L Marshall 5-10-9	G Lee (3)

6-4 George Ashford, 9-4 Emerald Charm, 3-1 Blue Charm, 8-1 Persuasive Talent, 10-1 Whiter Morn, 12-1 Another Meadow, 20-1 others.

2.30 FEDERATION BREWERY LCL PILS LAGER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,846: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	-232	HEATHVIEW 35 (F,G,S) J Fitzgerald 8-11-10	F Leahy (3)
2	43P3	SCARF 23 (B,S) J J O'Neill 7-11-7	A Roche (3)
3	U-3F	LAURIE-O 16 (CD,F,G,S) D Lamb 11-11-4	G Cahill (3)
4	S22F	WILLIE SPARKLE 13 (F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-10-13	A Watt (8)
5	-425	ACHILTIBUIE 21 (F) F Yardley 11-10-0	B Fenton
6	/8	LIVE AND LET LIVE 13 (V) Miss L Russell 11-10-0	G Lee

5-4 Heathview, 7-4 Willie Sparkle, 5-1 Scarf, 6-1 Laurie-O, 33-1 Achiltibuie, 50-1 Live And Let Live.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: L Lungo, 13 winners from 50 runners, 26.0%; Denys Smith, 6 from 33, 18.2%; M Hammond, 13 from 88, 14.8%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: N Bentley, 15 winners from 48 rides, 31.3%; T Reed, 22 from 88, 25%; P Niven, 18 from 73, 24.7%; A Dobbin, 17 from 78, 21.8%.

2.40 FLINT BISHOP & BARNETT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,110: 2m) (13)

1	-112	FERRUFINO 14 (D,BF,F) P Rich 7-11-13	W Marston	98
2	603-	FLYING INSTRUCTOR 179 P Webber 5-11-12	R Bellamy	86
3	B1-1	DARK NIGHTINGALE 8 (D,G) O Sherwood 5-11-9 (6ex)	J Osborne	96
4	226	ZAHID 20 (B,BF) K Burke 4-11-4	A Larnach (3)	94
5	04-4	TONY'S MIST 20 J Bradley 5-11-2	R Farrant	98
6	03-2	NEWHALL PRINCE 12 A Streeter 7-10-13	T Eley	▣
7	/2-6	DON TOCINO 17 J White 5-10-10	P McLoughlin	94
8	-620	VALISKY 34 R Lee 5-10-9	A Maguire	96
9	0-10	AVIATOR'S DREAM 8 (S) J Pearce 5-10-8	P Hide	95
10	6/3	SWISS MOUNTAIN 15 P Bevan 5-10-7	M A Fitzgerald	93
11	3/P	HICKORY WIND 12 M Wilkinson 8-10-1	A P McCoy	–
12	P/5	BIG CHANCE 30 J Glover 6-10-0	D Bridgwater	96
13	3P/	DARK PHANTOM 636P D O'Brien 8-10-0	Mr E James	–

5-4 Dark Nightingale, 6-1 Newhall Prince, Ferrufino, 7-1 Swiss Mountain, 8-1 Flying Instructor, 10-1 Aviator's Dream, 12-1 Tony's Mist, 14-1 others.

3.10 PERMIT TRAINERS ASSOCIATION AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,406: 2m 5f) (7)

1	11-1	HARWELL LAD 16 (F) R Alner 6-11-10	R Nuttall (7)	90
2	5-65	CARLINGFORD LIGHTS 20 O O'Neill 7-11-2	A Mitchell (7)	98
3	P/3	LONG REACH 34 N Twiston-Davies 7-10-8	M Rimell (5)	98
4	22-4	DUNKERY BEACON 42 H Howe 9-10-8	J Culloty (7)	▣
5	-604	JASON'S BOY 13 (F,S) J Bradley 5-10-5	R Johnson (5)	–
6	-345	PENIARTH 7 (F) R Price 9-10-0	R Thornton (7)	85
7	334-	RIVAGE BLEU 212 J King 8-10-0	L Baker (7)	94

6-4 Harwell Lad, 3-1 Long Reach, 5-1 Carlingford Lights, 6-1 Jason's Boy, 7-1 Dunkery Beacon, 16-1 Peniarth, Rivage Bleu.

3.40 UNDERGEAR TERRA TIRE NOVICES CHASE
(£3,648: 2m) (7)

1	123-	LARGE ACTION 209 (G,S) O Sherwood 7-11-0	J Osborne	–
2	503-	MR PRESIDENT 251 C Brooks 6-11-0	G Bradley	–
3	416-	NO PAIN NO GAIN 195 (G,S) J Gifford 7-11-0	P Hide	–
4	006-	REGAL AURA 28F (G) D O'Brien 5-11-0	G Brown	–
5	2P5-	RULLY 270 (F) M Chapman 6-11-0	W Worthington	–
6	2/2-	SPINNING STEEL 386 (F) P Rodford 8-11-0	S Burrough	–
7	0P-P	STORMING RUN 27 P Dalton 7-11-0	T Eley	–

1-3 Large Action, 5-1 No Pain No Gain, 8-1 Mr President, 10-1 Spinning Steel, 20-1 Regal Aura, 25-1 Rully, 33-1 Storming Run.

4.10 NATIONAL FOREST HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,729: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

1	-111	RUNAWAY PETE 31 (D,F,G) M Pipe 5-11-10	D Bridgwater	94
2	2231	CHICAGO'S BEST 20 (B,CD,F,G) K Wingrove 8-11-8	J Ryan	▣
3	3224	GONE BY 20 (B,D,F,G) J Jenkins 7-11-8	A Maguire	95
4	410-	BARTON SANTA 196 (S) S Brookshaw 6-11-3	R Dunwoody	97
5	U12-	LIEN DE FAMILLE 184 (D,F,S) J Quinn 5-11-2	L Wyer	96
6	/5-F	OLD MONEY 13 (G) C Broad 9-11-1	G Hogan (5)	–
7	01-1	JOHNS THE BOY 147 (D,G,S) N Mason 9-10-11	J Supple (3)	90
8	20-0	AUGUST TWELFTH 17 (D,S) D O'Brien 7-10-10	A P McCoy	97
9	005-	ALTERNATION 227 (G) P Webber 6-10-0	Mr P Scott (7)	89

2-1 Runaway Pete, 4-1 Chicago's Best, Lien De Famille, 7-1 Johns The Boy, 8-1 Gone By, 10-1 Old Money, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: S Brookshaw, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%; M Pipe, 40 from 139, 28.8%; O Sherwood, 13 from 48, 27.1%; K Bailey, 22 from 83, 26.5%; C Brooks, 4 from 16, 25.0%; J J O'Neill, 5 from 21, 23.8%; N Twiston-Davies, 17 from 85, 20%; P Dalton, 8 from 49, 16.3%; R Lee, 7 from 54, 13.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 26 winners from 82 rides, 31.7%; R Dunwoody, 38 from 162, 23.5%; G Bradley, 8 from 35, 22.9%; A Maguire, 20 from 116, 17.2%; J Railton, 8 from 48, 16.7%; A P McCoy, 4 from 25, 16.0%.

3.00 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,725: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1	4P3-	IRISH FLASHER 189 (B,D,F) J Birkett 8-11-10	A Jones
2	P0-3	MHEMEANLES 8 (BF,F) J Wilson 5-11-4	B Fenton (5)
3	000-	TACTIX 193 Miss M Milligan 5-11-1	R Guest
4	3125	YACHT CLUB 12 (BF,F) J Eyre 13-10-12	D Pears
5	5-22	PALACE RIVER 8 (BF) D Moffatt 7-10-11	D J Moffatt
6	2523	BALZINO 13 (B) N Tinkler 6-10-4	E Husband (5)

7-4 Palace River, 5-2 Mhemeanles, 3-1 Yacht Club, 5-1 Balzino, 12-1 Irish Flasher, 20-1 Tactix.

3.30 JOHN EUSTACE SMITH TROPHY (Novices handicap chase: £2,490: 2m 110yd) (7)

1	44-1	SUPERTOP 7 (D,G) L Lungo 7-12-1 (7ex)	T Reed
2	41/2	ALLIMAC NOMIS 118 (F,G) M Hammond 6-11-10	Mr C Bonner (3)
3	P/32	SONNY-P 27 P Beaumont 7-10-8	R Supple
4	0P-0	STRONG MEASURE 27 (F) P Cheesbrough 7-10-3	A Dobbin
5	604-	HICKSONS CHOICE 182 J Wade 7-10-2	K Jones
6	-PPP	CROFTON LAKE 27 J Dixon 7-10-1	B Storey
7	05-5	QUARTZ HILL 27 D Lamb 6-10-0	Mr A Manners (7)

7-4 Allimac Nomis, 9-4 Supertop, 11-4 Sonny-P, 8-1 Strong Measure, 12-1 Hicksons Choice, 25-1 Crofton Lake, Quartz Hill

4.00 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,031: 2m) (7)

1	1-F4	TASHREEF 140 (B,CD,F,S) J Birkett 5-11-10	A Jones
2	00-0	JOYRIDER 7 (D,S) Miss M Milligan 4-11-8	R Guest
3	100-	FLY TO THE END 193 (D,S) J Quinn 5-11-1	D Byrne
4	-320	CADEAUX PREMIERE 13 Denys Smith 4-10-6	P Niven
5	2155	GREEN'S SEAGO 8 (CD,F,G) J A Harris 7-10-5	A Dobbin
6	55P0	SPORTING SPIRIT 23 G Kelly 5-10-0	D J Kavanagh
7	3620	SWANK GILBERT 20 T Cuthbert 9-10-0	Carol Cuthbert

2-1 Tashreef, 9-4 Cadeaux Premiere, 5-2 Green's Seago, 8-1 Joyrider, 10-1 Fly To The End, 25-1 Swank Gilbert, Sporting Spirit.

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Blackburn provide too little too late

By Peter Ball

FOR the first time this season there were two opinions on a Blackburn Rovers performance in the European Cup Champions' League, after the 0-0 draw with Legia Warsaw on Wednesday night. The draw ended their interest in the competition, but Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, took some solace from their display.

Harford felt that it had been their best performance in European competition so far; and some neutrals, including the ITV commentary team, apparently agreed with him. Others were less easily impressed.

Harford suggested that his side had held possession better than in previous matches, and "made chances, if not many". Later, however, he also suggested that they had created more chances with a more direct approach against Spartak Moscow, in the first game, and Blackburn's critics wondered whether, on this occasion, such an approach might have paid dividends against a goalkeeper, Szczesny, who looked vulnerable in the air.

"That 'keeper is the biggest joke I've seen in years," one leading Premiership manager said yesterday, wondering why Blackburn had not moved Hendry forward for the last fling.

Even Harford, however, would admit that an improvement in keeping possession was small consolation in another week that brought the state of the English game into unflattering perspective. The failures of Leeds United and Liverpool, and the earlier exit of Manchester United, form a damning pattern.

However, the Champions' League is the real test of quality, and Blackburn were found badly wanting, even compared with the poor record of English clubs since the return to Europe five years ago. Manchester United at least won two games and drew two more, scoring 11 goals last season. Blackburn have managed one point and one goal from four games, making their last two fixtures meaningless.

United had to play Barcelona; Blackburn, their inexperience showing, have stumbled against Legia Warsaw and Rosenborg BK. "People said they would be easy to beat," Graeme Le Saux, the Blackburn full back, said afterwards, "but they had pace, skill and great technique, and it was a terrific experience to be on the pitch with them."

Perhaps with Bohinen back to fuel their domestic recovery, Blackburn can learn from that experience and be better prepared next time, but there is a long way to go, as Le Saux recognised.

"I don't think we are any worse than the Europeans in terms of ability, but on a technical level everyone on the Continent has moved on. We're still trying to catch up after the ban on English clubs, and the only way you can do that is by playing in Europe."

Ajax, of Amsterdam, set a record on Wednesday for the longest unbeaten run in the European Cup. By drawing 0-0 in Zurich against Grasshopper in group D, Ajax extended their unbeaten sequence to 15 games, beating the previous best of 14 set by Liverpool in the mid-1980s and the Ajax of Johan Cruyff in the early 1970s.

Ajax, one of only three clubs to have won all three European cup competitions, began their impressive sequence of ten wins and five draws with a 2-0 victory over the then holders, Milan, last season. Ajax last lost in a European competition in March 1994, suffering a 2-0 reverse against Parma in the Cup Winners' Cup.

The Dutch champions are enjoying similar success on the domestic front. They were last beaten in the league 46 games ago, falling 2-1 to Willem II on May 8, 1994.

Ajax went undefeated in the European Cup from April 1971 to March 1973, while Milan hold the record for the longest unbeaten sequence, of 17 matches, in all European competitions.

Juninho gets down to training with his new team-mates after receiving permission to play for Middlesbrough

Juninho cleared to make debut

By Our Sports Staff

JUNINHO, the Brazilian footballer of the year, finally secured the authorisation to play in England yesterday, triggering a carnival atmosphere at the Middlesbrough training ground.

"We are all delighted his clearance has come through," Bryan Robson, the manager, said. "You could see Juninho was delighted as well when we told him in training."

The midfield player will make his debut against Leeds United tomorrow in front of a capacity 30,000 crowd at the Riverside Stadium. Middlesbrough received international clearance yesterday morning after the necessary papers were relayed to the Football Association from Brazilian football's governing body.

Robson, who had feared facing another weekend without his £4.75million signing from São Paulo, said: "It means that Juninho can now concentrate on playing football without worrying about anything else."

Juninho's debut will be the reward for five months of hard work byRobson. He first tracked the player during the Umbro Cup in the summer, but the transfer was completed only three weeks ago. Juninho arrived back on Teesside at the weekend after being granted a work permit.

He has trained with the squad for four days — and was involved in a full-scale practice match yesterday morning. Robson has no doubts that Juninho can cope with the stamina-sapping demands of the FA Carling Premiership.

"I told Juninho to take it steady in training after stepping off the plane," he said. "Today we stepped it up with a full-scale practice match and he showed up well. I know it is some time since he played in a match, but he has a lot of natural fitness."

Portsmouth have failed to have a two-match ban imposed on their defender, Guy Butters, overturned on appeal. They were confident that the Football Association would wipe out Butters's dismissal in the away match against West Bromwich Albion on October 21, when the former Tottenham Hotspur defender was sent off for two bookable offences. However, after studying a video of the incident which led to the second yellow card — a challenge on Bob Taylor — the FA upheld the decision of Uriah Rennie, the referee, to show the red card.

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, said that the video clearly showed that Butters's collision with Taylor was "an accident" and added: "I can't believe it — there is no way Guy brought Taylor down on purpose."

Fenwick had hoped that the FA would ask Rennie to reconsider his decision after reviewing the incident, but they refused to consult the match official and Butters will miss the trip to Sheffield United on Saturday and the home clash with Huddersfield a week later.

Robert Fleck, the Norwich City striker, has been fined £1,000 and warned about his future conduct after being found guilty of misconduct by the FA. Fleck was punished after an incident during the match with Sheffield United at Bramall Lane on September 9, when he abused an official after being substituted.

In addition to the fine and the warning, the Scot, 30, was ordered to pay the costs of the hearing.

SPORTS LETTERS

Events must match stadium

From Mr Robert Copeman

Sir, I welcome the proposal to create a new national "soccer" stadium so long as we learn from our past mistakes. Wembley has had a very unprofitable past despite long-term and exclusive contracts with the Football Association.

Surely a grass-roots site must be found in London which will not disrupt an ongoing programme at Wembley.

A national "athletics" stadium in Manchester is another matter. Neither the International Amateur Atheltic Federation nor the British federation have been very successful at marketing athletics recently, especially for television.

The 1995 IAAF world championships sold US television rights for $1 million. Most of the events with the same competitors within the 1996 Olympics in the United States have sold for perhaps 100 times more.

Britain may bid for and secure the 2001 world championships, but how likely is a profit and for how many days would even 25 per cent of the stadium's planned 65,000 capacity be filled?

Manchester will never win a summer Olympic Games whatever facilities are in situ. Manchester is in the same television time slot as perhaps 20 other cities (including London) who will always make out a better case.

There will not be sufficient viable projects in British sport to utilise available Lottery funds. There were five candidates to site a national stadium, although there are clearly not (and will not be) sufficient "national" sporting events to justify spending up to £200 million on one.

The chances of Britain staging the 2008 Olympic Games are not good and the chances of our national stadium still being state of the art in 2002 even less. By all means, let's build a new national stadium, but let's be realistic as to just what events will be held there and who will pay the required subsidies.

Yours very sincerely,
ROBERT C. COPEMAN,
Managing Director,
Centre for Sports Television,
Controllable Environments & Machinery,
PO Box 174,
Birmingham 5.

From Mr D. Evans

Sir, The last few years have seen a burst of activity in the building of new sports stadiums. Twickenham has set the trend for what can only be described as horrendous visual structures, which are being copied up and down the land.

Where is the influence of imaginative and sensitive architects; where is the control which should be exercised by the planning departments of the local authorities? Nobody seems to care, not the Royal Institute of British Architects, not the clients, not even the Prince of Wales.

Is this the heritage which we are passing on to mark the end of the 20th century? There are examples of wonderful sports venues around the world which delight the eye. Overseas visitors to Twickenham will be appalled if they ever visit that shrine of rugby and see the reality of a debased design, which looks like an erection of temporary scaffolding.

Yours etc.,
D. EVANS,
16 Laytons Lane,
Sunbury on Thames,
Middlesex.

Lack of diplomacy

From Mr Edward Footring

Sir, In agreeing wholeheartedly with Simon Barnes ("Malcolm menaced by meddlers", November 1) I was hoping to see some reference to Raymond Illingworth who, having spent part of last year doing his best — thankfully without success — to undermine the England captain, has now turned his attention to Devon Malcolm.

The mind boggles at the thought of a chairman of selectors who, having chosen Malcolm as a member of a touring party, and one of only four strike bowlers, decides, after the tour commences, to remodel his bowling action.

Illingworth — aided by Peter Lever, who I cannot recall as being the greatest bowler of his day — continues to be superb at public relations.

Of all the members of the touring party Malcolm is the icon and role model for the thousands of black youngsters up and down South Africa who dream of playing cricket for their country one day. And Illingworth publicly sends him back to school — with an undiplomatic teacher.

What a way to run a Test team.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD FOOTRING,
6 Nottingham Terrace,
York Terrace West,
Regent's Park, NW1.

Proud expression

From Mr Colin Welland

Sir, David Miller (October 30) should not judge a whole sport on one match, one occasion.

It is a spurious exercise to compare this year's two rugby World Cup finals. The first, rugby union in Johannesburg, was a massive celebration of a nation's release from purdah, a jamboree of national relief explored in the form of its national game.

Last Saturday's rugby league event at Wembley, though much lower key, was a proud expression of a game's defiant identity, which only constant belligerence against the views of the likes of Miller has managed to maintain and sustain. What if a disappointing final did emphasise some of the game's weaknesses? Nothing is perfect.

But the rugby league World Cup did produce encounters to stir even the most fossilised of blood. He can't have been at either semi-final, both of which contained all that is fine, skilful and exhilarating about our code, nor at Swansea for Wales v Western Samoa, a game that fizzed with fire, passion and commitment.

Yours etc.,
COLIN WELLAND,
c/o Peter Fraser & Dunlop,
5th Floor,
The Chamber,
Chelsea Harbour, SW10.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan Bridge Correspondent

Dealer East **Game all** **IMP's**

North:
♠A 3
♥J 7 2
♦Q 10 9 8 7 4
♣A 9

West:
♠J 10 9 6 2
♥Q 10 5 3
♦K 3
♣K 2

East:
♠7 4
♥A 8 6
♦A 6 2
♣Q 10 8 6 4

South:
♠K Q 8 5
♥K 9 4
♦J 5
♣J 7 5 3

Contract: 3 NT by South **Lead: Jack of Spades**

North opened a weak Two Diamonds after three passes. In fourth seat that is constructive, so South bid a pushy 3 NT.

Brian Senior, my partner, led the jack of spades, won by the declarer with the king, with me (East) playing the seven to show two or four. Declarer played a diamond to West's king and West played the six of spades to dummy's ace. Declarer played the queen of diamonds, which held, and another diamond on which South and West discarded the eight and two of spades, respectively. What should East do now?

It is apparent that declarer has four tricks in diamonds and three in spades (he is marked with the queen from the play to the first trick). If he has the king of hearts, he is going to make the contract unless East attacks clubs. On the other hand, if South has the king of clubs, East has to play his partner for K Q x x of hearts. Which is it to be?

The clue is West's discard of the two of spades. If he had had K Q x x of hearts, he would have discarded the ten of spades, a suit-preference signal for the higher-ranking suit. Hence, I had to play Senior for the king of clubs. I returned the ten of clubs, in case the declarer had the jack. (If I lead low, declarer will play low and later make a trick with the jack.)

Declarer played the jack, covered by the king and ace. Now, after he had cashed the diamonds, I won the ace of hearts, and took two club tricks to beat the contract.

Declarer does better to play low from hand on the ten of clubs and win in dummy. Then, after running the diamonds, he comes down to the queen of spades, K x in hearts and the jack of clubs. West then has to discard his king of clubs on the last diamond to enable East to run his clubs. No problem for Senior.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HODEN
a. A winter cloak
b. A rustic dance
c. A wooden horse

NEUE SACHLICHKEIT
a. A Viennese tart
b. Artistic realism
c. An open air macho movement

HOAGIE
a. A long sandwich
b. A redneck xenophobe
c. A wild boar

KARAKIA
a. An incantation
b. Ritual shell exchange
c. An orange climbing shrub

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Short shines

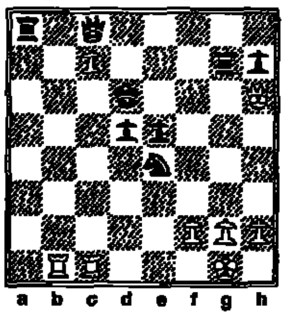
With a slashing attack in the final round of the PCA Classic at Horgen, Switzerland, Nigel Short has achieved his best tournament result for years. Short finished in a tie for third, behind Vassily Ivanchuk and Vladimir Kramnik but a point ahead of Garry Kasparov, the world champion.

White: Nigel Short
Black: Boris Gulko
Horgen, November 1995

Caro-Kann Defence

1	e4	c6
2	Ne2	d5
3	e5	c5
4	d4	Nc6
5	c3	Bf5
6	dxc5	e6
7	b4	a5
8	Nd4	axb4
9	cxb4	Qc7
10	Bb5	Bxb1
11	Rxb1	Qxe5+
12	Be3	Qc7
13	0-0	Be7
14	Bxc6+	bxc6
15	b5	cxb5
16	Nxb5	Qc6
17	Nd4	Qc8
18	Qb3	Nf6
19	Qb5+	Kf8
20	Nc6	Ne4
21	Nxe7	Kxe7
22	Qb2	Rd8
23	Qxg7	Rxa2
24	Rfc1	Rg8
25	Qe5	f6
26	Qh5	Rg7
27	c6	Kd6
28	c7	Ra8
29	Bf4+	e5
30	Bxe5+	fxe5
31	Qh6+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



In the final position, after 31, ... Rg6; 32, Rb6+ Kd7; 33, Qxh7+, Black's case is hopeless.

FINAL SCORES

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1 Ivanchuk	—	½	½	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	½	7
2 Kramnik	½	—	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	7
3 Ehlvest	½	½	—	½	½	1	1	½	½	½	½	6
4 Short	1	0	½	—	½	1	0	½	½	1	1	6
5 Kasparov	0	½	½	½	—	½	1	½	½	½	½	5
6 Gulko	½	0	0	0	½	—	1	½	½	1	½	4½
7 Korchnoi	0	½	0	1	0	0	—	½	1	½	1	4½
8 Yusupov	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	—	½	½	½	4½
9 Lautier	0	0	½	½	½	½	0	½	—	½	1	4
10 Vaganian	0	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	—	1	3½
11 Timman	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	—	3

In the above table, 1 = a win, ½ = a draw

Chess for charity

On January 20, I shall be giving a chess display, taking on allcomers to raise funds for the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit Appeal for St George's Hospital, Tooting. Those wishing to play or support the venture should contact Lucy DeVille, appeal co-ordinator, on 0181-725 5096.

The Times world championship book

All games of the match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a *Times* book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5/655).

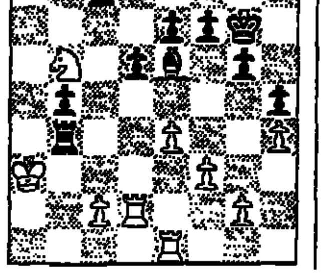
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Anand — Kasparov, Intel world championship, eleventh game, 1995. This position shows Anand falling for a clever trap. Black seems to be in trouble as both of his rooks are attacked. How did Kasparov, Black to play, demonstrate convincingly that this is not the case?

Solution on page 46



Gould drops Hughes for Albania match

MARK HUGHES and Ian Rush have been left out of the Wales team to play Albania in Tirana on November 15 in their final European championship group seven qualifying match.

Bobby Gould, the manager, has decided to start the game with the 11 players who began the 2-1 defeat by Germany in Cardiff last month, and although Rush will travel with the party, Hughes has turned down the chance.

"I have explained everything to Mark and other senior players such as Ian Rush and David Phillips, and there is no confrontation of any kind whatsoever," Gould said.

Gould emphatically dismissed a suggestion that Hughes's international career could now be finished. "There is no way that Mark's international career is over. There is competition and that is healthy, but Mark will never be ruled out of consideration for any side I select."

WALES: N Southall (Everton), A Melville (Sunderland), K Symons (Manchester City), S Jenkins (Swansea City), M Bowen (Norwich City), G Speed (Leeds United), B Horne (Everton), M Pembridge (Sheffield Wednesday), D Saunders (Galatasaray), R Giggs (Manchester United), N Blake (Sheffield United)

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صكر : من الاصل

Finding sporting excellence in land of the midday moon

We were flown over for the big match on Sunday: a nicely balanced team you would have called us, incorporating youth and age, men and women, columnists from the United States, Great Britain and Germany.

Their Foreign Office acted as our hosts, accommodated, fed and watered us, minibussed us across the city thrusting briefing papers into our hands and paraded for our delectation the great and the good, who gave addresses from podiums equipped with machinery for slides. Our task, after our reward of a seat at the Cup final, was to listen to their teaching.

I will not insult you by giving too many details of Sunday's contest: the team from the west had the more fervent supporters, the team from the north the greater talent, so it was a 1-1 draw which was less than compulsive to watch.

The replay next Sunday, once more at the Ulleval Stadium in Oslo, kicks off at 1.15pm and, if I could have a bet, I would take Rosenborg BK, from Trondheim, to beat Brann, from Bergen, 5-0. Distance-wise it is like Truro playing Carlisle at Wembley two weeks running, for which only the rash would predict a second 29,000 sell-out ... but this is Norway. It was the aim of our hosts to sell us the contention that Norway is different and the state of Norwegianness something that is worth investigating. The total seriousness with which the people of Oslo take karaoke bars is a point in fact: the ease with which Rosenborg beat Blackburn Rovers in the Champions' League this season shows the seriousness of their purpose.

After the match, we dined on pâté of reindeer and garlic, fish and good wine, though no spirits, because you cannot buy spirits on a Sunday in a land of the midday moon.

Monday morning saw our brave band of travellers greeted by Arne Myhrvold in a building adjacent to the sports university. Myhrvold is president both of the national Olympic committee and the Norwegian Confederation of Sport: an important man and one with innovative ideas.

His topic, "The Norwegian model for the development of elite sport", by which they mean a carefully evolved system of coach/player co-operation, is a far cry from our practice of having the former shout at the latter — who then goes on strike for more money. The Norwegian system involves philosophy and advances *mens sana in corpore sano* to supporting the athlete in his home life, his studies, his personal life, and his plans for a future after athletics.

FREUD ON FRIDAY

The Norwegians have a squad of some 120 Olympic probables who receive a stipend of £6,000 a year of lottery money and government grants to minimise financial problems and enable concentration on training and winning. There is much cross-germination: a successful cross-country skier explains the philosophy of success to a high hurdler: judo and karate champions teach balance and speed of reaction to keepers (goalkeepers at hockey, ice hockey, football and handball).

There is a lecture from a failed tycoon on coping with adversity and a music virtuoso on the realisation of success.

The Elite Sport Venture, started in 1984, is called "Project '88'" ("we did not look at results for four years"), and it has nearly doubled the number of medals won in Olympic, world, and European championships in seven years, via the basic and fundamental philosophy geared towards the common goal of winning and the realisation that the athlete is a human being of intellectual, social and psychological capacity *with* whom to work. If only Eddie The Eagle had looked to Norway.

For lunch, we have soused herrings, not very cold fruit juice, excellent bread and cold cuts of meat in the refectory. We move on to the Norwegian Football Association offices situated within the stadium. "Drillo" (the word means "the dribbler"), is Norway's Venables, though he has different problems. We learn about his philosophy: "Our aim is to win, not to entertain. One-nil is better than 5-4." We want to take him up on this, but he does not hang around for questions.

Stadiums are turfed by a mixture of real and artificial grass with under-pitch heating. Full-sized covered halls are being built all over this huge country. There are junior leagues in six regions: under-ten, under-12, under-14, under-16, boys and girls. Eighty per cent of boys play football at the age of nine. There are 50,000 girls' clubs. Most club teams have subsidiary XIs for the physically handicapped and the socially disturbed, playing in their strip.

"Could we do this in England?" asks a colleague. He is told that this would be hard to achieve in a land that has a large population.

How many Norwegians are there?

Four and a half million, says the FA official; it has been said four and half million consultants. Of these, 30 per cent spend winter weekends on their skis and, in my 48-hour stay, I saw none who were overweight. The Norwegians have a lot going for them when it comes to sporting achievement.

Smith and Janes offer glimpse of brighter future

By Stuart Jones, tennis correspondent

THEY are a rum lot, the trio who joined Clare Wood, the No 1 seed, in the last four of the national championships. They include a 35-year-old who has retired, a 23-year-old who gave up the game in 1992 and a 17-year-old novice. What does that say about domestic women's tennis?

The progress of Jo Durie, Samantha Smith and Amanda Janes, the respective semi-finalists, might be seen as a detrimental reflection. They are, in turn, relatively aged, rusty and raw. There are, nevertheless, positive aspects, especially concerning the younger pair.

Smith is the most elegant of the British women and is destined soon to be officially the best. She would already have attained that status had she not spent the past three years at Exeter University studying political history, a subject which she admits will be of no practical use.

Disenchanted with the lack of stimulation off court, she left the professional circuit when she was on the verge of breaking into the top 100 in the world. Loaded with natural talent, she confessed that she was mentally "brittle, all over the place".

She played recreationally at Exeter, though while she was there she beat the woman ranked No 70 in the world at the World Student Games and realised that she was in love with the game that she had rejected. Her renaissance began three months ago during county week at Eastbourne. Yet to drop a set at Telford, yesterday she defeated Lizzie Jelfs, the contrastingly stiff and laboured No 2 seed. Playing in fits and starts but always with effortless grace, Smith four times took three games in a row to go through 6-2, 7-5 and will next meet Durie.

The pair faced each other at the same stage four years ago when, Smith recalls, a net cord cost her the opening set. She went on to lose then but should win today as long as she is not inhibited by nerves. Durie has none. She is competing just for fun.

Seven times the champion, she is more than a decade past her best and is trundling around on knees that can barely carry her. Since Wimbledon, when she ended her career, she has played only in the qualifying competition at Brighton last month.

Results 46

"I'm not getting myself in a knot as I used to," she explained after knocking out Amanda Wainwright 6-2, 6-3 in little more than an hour. "It doesn't matter whether I win or lose but, I can assure you, there is no way I'm playing any more after this." Her swansong beckons.

Durie believes that Janes, the long-legged daughter of the former Wimbledon runner-up, has a game for the future. It also belongs in the past. Rather than following the predominant pattern nowadays, along the baseline, she frequently visits the place she calls "home", the net.

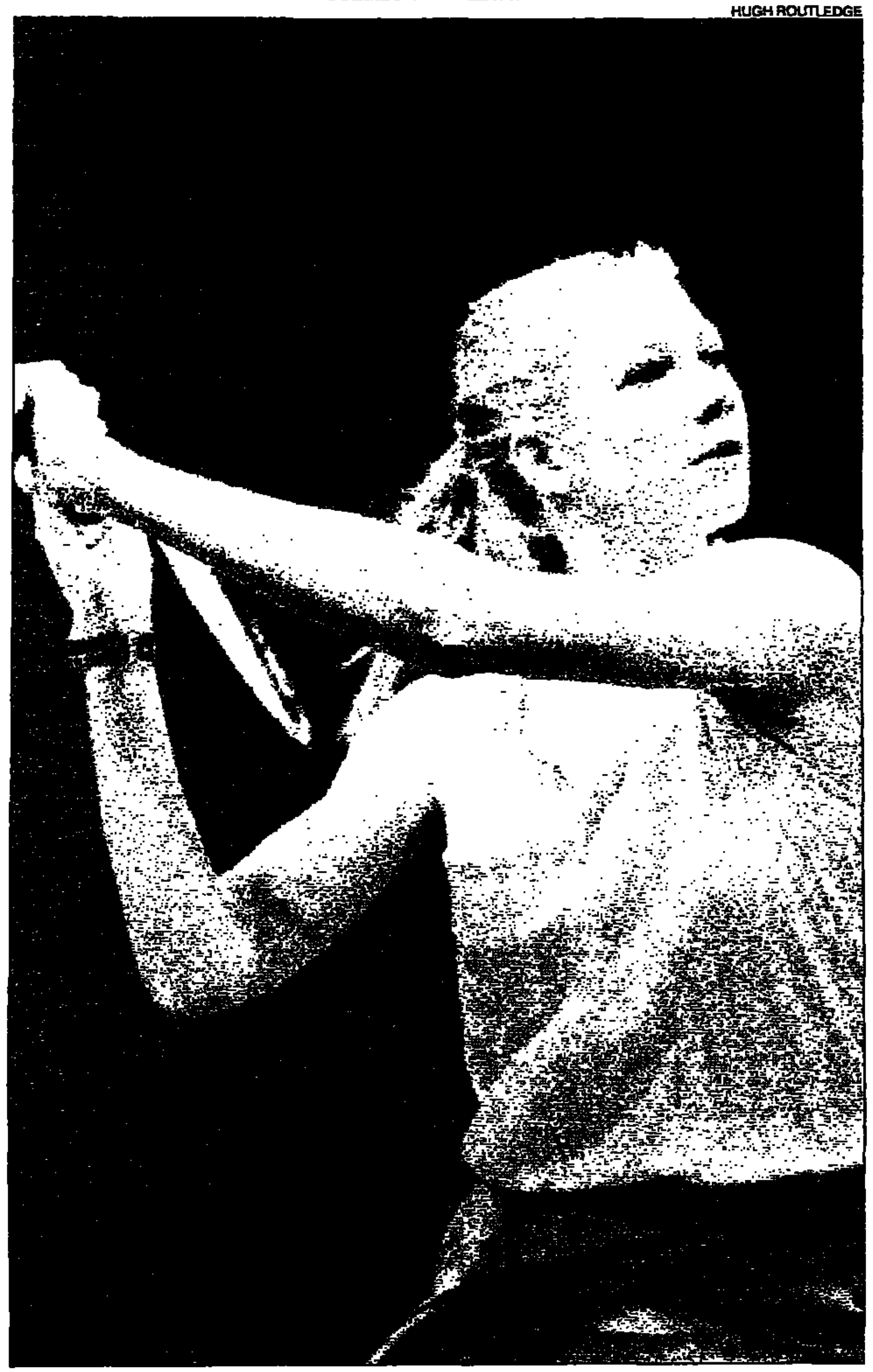
"I like to go to the net and volley," she said. "Most girls are baseliners, but I break up their rhythm by going in all the time."

Durie said: "Because she has something different, that will help her. It puts opponents off." Janes, a qualifier, has yet to drop a set in six matches and had evidently not planned to bemuse Karen Cross, the No 3 seed. After winning 6-3, 7-5, she had to check back into her hotel.

Even if she succumbs to Wood, who eliminated Jasmine Choudhury, another talented 17-year-old, Janes will have spent a highly profitable week. She is already guaranteed to earn £2,200 in prize-money — by far and away her biggest pay packet, and a sum that will go towards buying a car. She takes her driving test in a fortnight.

The men continue to tread a more predictable path. Tim Henman, the No 3 seed, was the only winner to be taken to a third set. He beat Andrew Richardson, whose service is as big as his frame. He stands 6ft 7in. The line-up in the quarter-finals today is Greg Rusedski v Luke Milligan, Mark Petchey v Colin Beecher, Jamie Delgado v Henman and Barry Cowan v Jeremy Bates.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Janes on the way to a 6-3, 7-5 quarter-final defeat of Cross at Telford yesterday

Scotland offering big incentive to stay in vanguard

By Mark Souster

THE Scotland international rugby union squad has been offered lucrative five-month contracts worth up to £22,500 per player. The deal, the small print of which is still being discussed, could be signed within the next week, and covers the international against Western Samoa later this month and the five nations' championship in 1996. If Scotland beat the Samoans, who arrived in Edinburgh yesterday, and win the grand slam, the cost to the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) could exceed £400,000.

The squad is considering the offer of retainers individually worth £5,000. On top of that, all 21 players featuring in an international — the team plus six replacements — will receive £2,000, and those who actually play will be paid £1,500 if Scotland win an international, and £750 if they lose. The minimum a leading player could expect is £18,750, rising to a maximum of £22,500, before tax. However, the position of players in the armed forces or the police regarding dual contracts of employment has yet to be finalised.

By any standards, that is a significant incentive for the squad, and a substantial investment by the SRU, one which proves that the union is serious in ensuring its players cannot consider themselves the poor relations of the international game. It may also prevent players from moving to England in search of greater financial reward. The SRU had wanted to insert a clause in contracts stipulating that those tied to the union had to play their domestic rugby in Scotland, but it is understood that has been ruled out on legal grounds.

In return, the players, who will be employees of the SRU, will be expected to undertake considerable marketing and promotional activities. It is also believed that players will be prevented from writing newspaper columns, although existing agreements can be honoured. To finance such a huge commitment, the SRU is reviewing its whole commercial operation, to explore other sources of income.

The players, through Rob Wainwright and Craig Chalmers, their representatives, and Ian McLauchlan, their agent, have been negotiating with the SRU for several months. Discussions have been cordial and ultimately seem likely to be mutually productive.

☐ Gary Armstrong, missing from the international scene for more than a year because of a serious knee injury, has been recalled to captain Scotland A against Western Samoa at Hawick on November 12. The Jed-Forest and British Isles scrum half, who has signed registration forms for Newcastle, leads a side containing six newcomers at this level — Lang, Welsh, Ellis, Elliot, Renwick and Amos.

SCOTLAND A: S D Lang (Heriot's FP); H R Gilmour (Heriot's FP), S A Nichol (Selkirk), I C Jardine (Stirling County), D A Stark (Boroughmuir), W S Welsh (Hawick), G Armstrong (Jed-Forest, captain); A V Sharp (Bristol), D G Ellis (Currie), A P Burnell (London Scottish), E W Peters (Bath), I Elliot (Hawick), S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP), J P Amos (Gala), B L Renwick (Hawick). Replacements: S R Laing (Instonians), B R S Eriksson (London Scottish), A D Nicol (Bath), D G Burns (Boroughmuir), S W Paul (Heriot's FP), S Scott (Melrose).

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

GRIEVES, EVELYN ANNE GRIEVES, widow, late of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, died there on 31st July 1995 (Estate about £5000.00). The kin of the above-named are requested to APPLY to England & Co. Solicitors, 7/8 South Quay, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2QN by 15th January 1996.

The Fourteenth Annual General Meeting of The British Ski Federation Limited will take place at 11.00am on 5 December 1995 at The Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London. All Honorary, Life and Affiliate members are welcome.
By Order of the Board
David Mather
Company Secretary

LEGAL NOTICES

DEALON LIMITED
(PREVIOUSLY ARCHITECTURAL PRESS LIMITED)
COMPANY NUMBER: 1793071

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

FIFEPOINT LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Fifepoint Limited is to be held at Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN on 15 November 1995 at 10.00am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.

Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0113 244 2044) and ask for Chris Burford.

Any creditors requiring a copy of the report (which is available free of charge) should write to Price Waterhouse, 9 Bond Court, Leeds, LS1 2SN.

Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
R Marsh, Joint Administrative Receiver
30 October 1995.

LEGAL NOTICES

ARCHITECTURAL PRESS BOOKS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1470606

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
BELLS BREAKDOWN SERVICE LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ian Franses of Ian Franses Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named company on the 31st October 1995.

All creditors who have not already done so are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Franses at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Franses - Liquidator.

ICP LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1848827

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

HULTON LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 731013

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

SUNBEACH HOLIDAYS LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ROGER WILLIAM CORK of MOORE STEPHENS BOOTH WHITE, 1 SNOW HILL, LONDON, EC1A 2EN and DAVID JOHN PALLEN of ERNST & YOUNG, BECKET HOUSE, 1 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD, LONDON, SE1 7EU were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above-named company on 27th October 1995.

Creditors are required, on or before 27th November 1995, to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the Joint Liquidators. And if so required by notice in writing from the Joint Liquidators, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
Dated this 27th day of October 1995
ROGER W. CORK AND DAVID J. PALLEN, Joint Liquidator.

MW PUBLISHERS LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 1136560

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

UNITED TRADE PRESS GROUP LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 190857

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

UTP (FINANCIAL PUBLICATIONS) LIMITED
COMPANY NUMBER: 890962

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at Price Waterhouse, No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on Thursday 9 November 1995 at 10.30am. The purposes of the meeting are to receive a Statement of Affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.

A list of the names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection at the offices of Price Waterhouse at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL, on any of the five business days prior to the date of the meeting.
By order of the board
R E Cockton
Dated 1 November 1995
Note: Any creditor who has not received notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 0171 939 3000 extension 4293 to obtain the necessary forms.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

LYNCH, PATRICK JOSEPH of 10 KENTWOOD CLOSE, TILEHURST, READING, BERKSHIRE died on 2 AUGUST 1995 particulars to BURTON YEATES WESTBURYS Solicitors of 38 ST MARTINS LANE, LONDON WC2N 4ER (Ref: MRS. EMILY MACASKIE) before 5 JANUARY 1996.

RE: BENITA DOROTHY BARHAM DECEASED
PURSUANT TO THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

Notice is hereby given that any person having a claim against or an interest in the estate of BENITA DOROTHY BARHAM late of Lauriston House, Bickley Park Road, Bickley, Bromley, Kent who died on the 11th July 1995 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, Messrs. Leigh Williams Solicitors and Executors on or before the 12th day of January 1996 after which date the Executors will proceed to distributed the assets of the said deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which he shall then have had notice.
Dated this 31st day of October 1995
LEIGH WILLIAMS
Kings House, 32-40 Widmore Road, Bromley, Kent BR1 1RY
Executors for the said Benita Dorothy Barham.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Ambrose back for another season

By Our Sports Staff

CURTLY AMBROSE, the West Indian fast bowler, has agreed a new one-year contract as Northamptonshire's overseas player for next summer. Ambrose, 32, returns to Wantage Road for a sixth season after being replaced by Anil Kumble last summer while he toured England with West Indies.

Kumble, who claimed 105 wickets in his debut championship season, will be on duty with India next year but is being strongly tipped to return to Northamptonshire for the 1997 campaign.

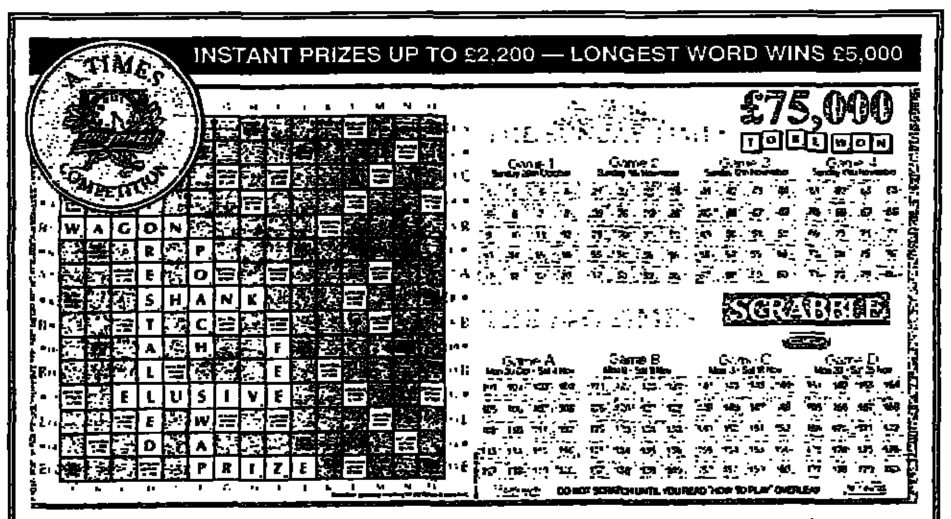
"Most people still regard Curtly as being at the top of the international tree." Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said.

Kim Barnett, the former England batsman, looks likely to play out his career with Derbyshire after announcing yesterday that he would be staying with the county. He gave up the captaincy at the end of last season.

Roger Twose, the former Warwickshire batsman, hit his first century for his adopted country yesterday as the New Zealanders raced to 367 for three on the opening day of their three-day match against Indian Colts in Hyderabad. He retired after scoring 119.

Salim Malik, the former captain of Pakistan, ended his eight-month exile yesterday and joined his team-mates in their tour match against South Australia. Malik, cleared after three Australia Test players accused him of offering bribes, spent the day in the field as the home side built a first-innings total of 282 for four.

INSTANT PRIZES UP TO £2,200 — LONGEST WORD WINS £5,000



Play £75,000 Scrabble

For the next four weeks, you can play our new £75,000 Scrabble game using the numbers printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

The Times Scrabble scratchcard has four games on it, one for each week until November 25. Numbers will be printed in *The Times* everyday. Printed below is the fifth set of numbers to play Game A in *The Times* only. More numbers will appear tomorrow.

There is a £5,000 jackpot to be won every week when you play our Longest Word game, FORESTALLED, by using letters you reveal from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

There are two ways to play for prizes:

1. Printed below are two numbers which you should scratch off on *The Times* Game A grid on your Scrabble gamecard today.
Do not scratch any other numbers.
By scratching the numbers you will reveal two letters. Using only the letters revealed on Game A, see if you can match any words on the Scrabble board. Each letter you have revealed can only be used once. *If you can match a word on the board, you have won a prize and must make a claim today.*

2. LONGEST WORD GAME. You can use any combination of the letters revealed this week on *The Sunday Times* Game 1 and *The Times* Game A to make the word FORESTALLED. If you succeed, ring the Scrabble hotline to make a claim for this week's £5,000 prize.

If more than one valid claim is made for a prize, the money will be shared equally among the claimants.

If you did not receive a gamecard call 0171-867 0404, between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday.

PRIZE WINNERS SO FAR THIS WEEK

The £5,000 prize (FORESTALLED) was shared by: Ms J Degrijs, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr S Langman, Wimbledon, London, and Mr M Gregan, Edinburgh. The £2,200 prize (PRIZE) was shared by: Mr A Millington, Reading, Berks, Mr J Taylor, Epsom, Surrey, and Mr R Dennis, Colchester, Essex. The £275 prize (FEE) was shared by: Mr M Caldwell, Barnet, Herts, Ms O Liew, Edinburgh, Mrs T Hook, Chaldon, Surrey, Mrs S Ware, Hazelmere, Surrey and Mrs C Fowler, New Market, Suffolk.

THESE ARE THE NUMBERS TO SCRATCH OFF GAME A ON YOUR *TIMES* CARD

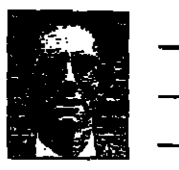
113 102

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE

If you reveal all the letters of any word from **Game A** of your Scrabble gamecard, claim your prize by calling the Scrabble hotline on **0171-867 0406** today, between 9.30am and 3pm. Have your gamecard with you when you claim. *Late claims will not be accepted.*

SPEAR'S GAMES®

Struggling to keep running in the family



David Powell meets a young athlete aiming to follow in his father's scorching footsteps

There was a time, perhaps, when a young Linford Christie was bent double with exhaustion after the first repetition hill runs of winter training. There was a time, no doubt, when the man who would become Olympic and world 100 metres champion was slumped against a fence, his suffering too great to notice the cold night air, asking himself: "Do I really want to do this?" There might even have been a time when the teenage Christie cycled several miles from home to track to attend the session because the answer was "yes".

Tuesday night training at Crystal Palace with the independent John Powell sprints squad, comprising mainly Belgrave Harriers, was well attended this week, 22 hopeful young men and women marked in on the register. It was the fifth session of winter conditioning and, even this early in the term, only half a dozen or so had perfect attendance records. Some had suffered colds, some injuries, some just excuses. Merric Christie-Osborne was not one of them. He was back for more, one of the earliest to arrive. Another tick against his name.

It was only last month that the eldest of Linford Christie's three children, the 16-year-old who made him a grandfather at 35, took his first committed steps in athletics. He had made a half-hearted attempt once before, at 14, but this time, he insisted, he meant it. He does not want to go through life being known only as Linford Christie's son but, like Damon Hill, Nigel Clough, Chris Cowdrey, Liam Botham and others before him, he wants to be recognised for his achievements, not his father's. "I want to prove that I am somebody as well," he said.

Powell broke the news without apology this Tuesday evening. "It's hills tonight," he told Merric. The young man nodded and shrugged his shoulders. One sensed that he wanted to argue but his conscience told him there was no substitute for hard work. Outside they went and Powell began to communicate his instructions to the group.

"It's similar to last week," he shouted. "Two sets of hills; you go out at about 70 per cent and, when I shout 'go', kick to flat-out. We are looking for good technical running, running tall, arms working well, staying high on your hips and maintaining form to the top, to the ridge where the railings begin, not before."

Not before. But, on the second 80-metre sprint, with eight efforts to come, the young Christie eased up. He was singled out for admonishment. "You are slowing up four strides early," Powell bellowed. After the fourth run, another reproach. "Keep it controlled Merric. Keep your head still." On the last sprint of the first set, he slowed down eight metres from the end. Powell said nothing.

Eight minutes' rest then a second set of five. In a subgroup of six athletes, all older than he, including Marlon Dickson, an English Schools 100 metres bronze medal-winner, Christie-Osborne was out of his class, but not by much. Certainly he was not giving in but, come the sixth sprint, he was bent double over the railings. From the top of the hill he could look down over floodlit Crystal Palace, where his father had won many a race.

> 'For the moment, the will is there'

"When I find it hard, I think Linford must have gone through the same thing, and that, if he had to go through it, I can't expect not to," Merric said. The session was over and Powell had let him off the last sprint. "At this stage it is a case of getting as much out of him as possible without driving him away," Powell said. "There is certainly a talent there to be developed."

At that moment, though, Merric was slumped against his bike — his transport from home in West Norwood — and the fence. "I look forward to the outcome, but when I am doing the sessions there is nothing I enjoy," he said.

Whether he will need a letter from Powell, as Christie did from his coach, Ron Roddan, telling him either to knuckle down or forget sprinting, remains to be seen. But, for the moment, the will is there. "He has got the right attitude, you can definitely see it," Ian Thomas, one of the group of six, observed.

Merric does not get on with his father. In his new autobiography, Christie chastises his son for not taking precautions against getting his girlfriend pregnant. When Merric sold the story of Christie becoming a grandfather, he was quoted as saying: "I'll be a better dad than Linford was to me."

None of Christie's children was born in wedlock. Though a wealthy man, he was ordered through the courts to pay £60 a week for his twin son and daughter, Liam and Korel, born to a different mother than Merric's, neither of whom was Mandy Miller, his long-standing girlfriend. "At college they say to me: 'Are you Linford's son?' and, when I say 'yeah', they ask me so many questions I can't answer," Merric said. "It makes me embarrassed. To have a dad so famous, I am expected to know a lot about him."

The young Christie has not joined Thames Valley Harriers, Linford's club, but is applying to Belgrave Harriers. He says that his father does not even know that he has started training. It is noticeable that, all evening, not once did Merric call him "dad", always "Linford", though he chooses Christie-Osborne for his surname in athletics rather than the plain Osborne he reverts to for everyday life. But he is content with family matters, living at home with his mother, looking after his daughter, Shiquerra, one night a week and spending much of his time at his girlfriend's house. By day, he goes to college in Lewisham, studying sport and recreation.

"If you are the son of somebody famous worldwide, you are bound to be looked upon differently and it is a tremendous burden for a 16-year-old to carry, especially in his circumstances," Powell said. "He has got a daughter, a split family, and obviously he is not well off. You can see by the way he is kitted out. He has no sports socks, the socks he has are in tatters and the kit he trains in is probably what he wears casually as well.

"He comes across as a typical 16-year-old from south London who is interested in developing himself in athletics. There are loads of them, hundreds of them."

Just as there were when Linford was a teenager.

Christie-Osborne gets set for a new life in the fast lane. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Mortgages especially for directors and the self-employed ...and no details of income needed!

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For the life you don't yet know

ALLIED DUNBAR

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-final series: Group A: Iraklis (Gr) bt Antibes (Fr) 91-71.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCHES: Adelaide (first day of four): South Australia 282-4 (B Johnson 54, D Lehmann 109 not out) v Pakistanis. Hyderabad (first day of three): New Zealanders 367-3 (R Twose 119 retired, M Crowe 110, S Fleming 50 not out) v Indian Colts XI.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Melbourne (second day of four): Victoria 158 (M Eliot 53, G Matthews 4-52); New South Wales 311-7 (M Taylor 126, S Waugh 80). Hobart (first day of four). Tasmania 73-1 v Queensland.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP: CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Panathinaikos 0 FC Porto 0; Aalborg 0 Nantes 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nantes	4	2	1	1	6	4	7
Panathinaikos	4	2	1	1	5	3	7
FC Porto	4	1	2	1	2	1	5
Aalborg	4	1	0	3	3	8	3

FIXTURES: Nov 22: Panathinaikos v Aalborg; FC Porto v Nantes. Dec 6: Nantes v Panathinaikos, Aalborg v FC Porto.

Group B: Spartak Moscow 4 Rosenborg BK 1: Blackburn 0 Legia Warsaw 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spartak Moscow	4	4	0	0	11	4	12
Legia Warsaw	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Rosenborg BK	4	1	0	3	6	12	3
Blackburn	3	0	0	3	1	4	0

FIXTURES: Nov 22: Spartak Moscow v Blackburn, Rosenborg BK v Legia Warsaw. Dec 6: Legia Warsaw v Spartak Moscow; Blackburn v Rosenborg BK.

Group C: Rangers 0 Juventus 4, Steaua Bucharest 0 Borussia Dortmund 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Juventus	4	4	0	0	14	2	12
B Dortmund	4	1	2	1	4	5	5
S Bucharest	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
Rangers	4	0	1	3	3	11	1

FIXTURES: Nov 22: Rangers v Steaua Bucharest; Juventus v Borussia Dortmund. Dec 6: Borussia Dortmund v Rangers; Steaua Bucharest v Juventus.

Group D: Grasshopper Zurich 0 Ajax 0: Ferencvaros 1 Real Madrid 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
Real Madrid	3	2	0	1	8	2	6
Ferencvaros	3	1	0	2	5	11	3
Grasshopper	3	0	0	3	0	8	0

FIXTURES: Nov 22: Ferencvaros v Grasshopper Zurich, Real Madrid v Ajax. Dec 6: Ajax v Ferencvaros; Grasshopper Zurich v Real Madrid.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE: Second division: Notts County 4 Brentford 0. Third division: Mansfield 1 Lincoln 2

UEFA CUP: Second round, second leg: Lens (Fr) 4 Chornomorets Odessa (Ukr) 0 (Lens win 4-0 on agg): Betis Sevilla (Sp) 1 Kaiserslautern (Ger) 0 (Sevilla win 4-1 on agg).

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING MATCH: England 1 Italy 1 (at Roker Park).

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Farsley Celtic 2 Worksop 2. *President's Cup*: First round: Leigh 0 Witton 3.

ICIS LEAGUE: Third division: Lewes 0 Wealdstone 4.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Dr *Martens* Cup: First round, first leg: Rushden and Diamonds 1 Kings Lynn 0. Second leg: *Dudley Town* 4 Stourbridge 4, *Paget* 5 Leicester 3

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth 1 Cwmbran 1, Barry 6 Afan Lido 0; Caernarfon 1 Bangor City 2; Cemaes Bay 2 Porthmadog 1, Llanelli 0 Inter Cardiff 1, *Conwy* 2 Llansantffraid 2; Rhyl 1 Flint Town 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal 2 Bristol City 1; Norwich 2 Ipswich 1, Oxford Utd 3 Charlton 4, Southampton 4 Brighton 1; Wimbledon 2 Luton 1 League Cup: Newport 1 Birmingham 3.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Leeds 3 Bolton 1; Sheffield Wed 5 Manchester Utd 3. Second division: Blackpool 0 Leicester 0; York 1 Port Vale 5. Third division: Scunthorpe 0 Shrewsbury 3; Wigan 1 Chester 0.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bourne 0 Stamford 6, Northampton Spencer 5 Newport Pagnell 1, Raunds 1 Cogenhoe 2; St Neots 3 S and L Corby 1.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Postponed: Cowes Sports v Bemerton Heath Harl

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: O'Brien/McKenzie Butchers Cup: Second round: London Colney 2 Potters Bar 0.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks 4 Mile Oak 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: North-West Woodward Trophy: First round: Manchester 3 Sefton 2 Inter-County Challenge Under-16: Staffordshire 1 Nottinghamshire 4, English Schools Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Staffordshire 1 Nottinghamshire 4. Hobbs Cup: Vale of White Horse 5 St Albans 0. Woodward Cup: Manchester 3 Sefton 2

HOCKEY

BISHAM ABBEY: Women's international match: Great Britain 4 Russia 0 (Great Britain lead 2-0 in series).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford 12 Castleford 18; London Broncos 34 St Helens 50; Oldham 30 Workington 26, Warrington 14 Halifax 16. *First division*: Batley 14 Keighley 21; Featherstone 16 Rochdale 24, Salford 40 Wakefield 12, Whitehaven 35 Dewsbury 8; Widnes 29 Hull 26. Second division: Bramley 26 Barrow 20; Doncaster 24 Highfield 17; Hull KR 12 Carlisle 14.

RUGBY UNION

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Somerset 21 Dorset and Wiltshire 15, Surrey 15 *Middlesex* 13

UNDER-21 COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North Midlands 39 Nottinghamshire Lincolnshire and Derbyshire 9.

TIPPEX COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: *Cambridgeshire* 17 *Essex* 39; Norfolk 24 Suffolk 14

CLUB MATCH: Percy Park 3 Newcastle 3

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Tiffin 5 St George's, Weybridge 12. Daily Mail Under-18 Cup: Second round: Eltham 6 Chichester 0.

TABLE TENNIS

LEEDS: European League: Super division: England 0 Austria 4. Results (England names first): Chen Xinhua lost to W Schlager 13-21, 18-21; A Cooke lost to Ding Yi 10-21, 11-21, M Syed lost to Qian Qianli 20-22, 24-22, 14-21; B Billington and A Eden lost to W Schlager and K Jindrak 9-21 20-22.

TENNIS

TELFORD: Guardian Direct British National Championships: Men: Second round: J Delgado (Warwicks) bt D Sanders (Somerset) 6-1, 6-4, T Henman (Oxon) bt A Richardson (Lincs) 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, B Cowan (Lancs) bt M Wyeth (Surrey) 6-1, 6-1. Women: Quarter-finals: J Durie (Avon) bt A Wainwright (Essex) 6-2, 6-3, A Janes (Essex) bt K Cross (Devon) 6-3, 7-5; S Smith (Essex) bt E Jelfs (Oxon) 6-2, 7-6; C Wood (Sussex) bt J Choudhury (Cambs) 6-1, 6-3.

PARIS: Men's tournament: Second round: A Medvedev (Ukr) bt M Washington (US) 6-4, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt H Leconte (Fr) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; P Haarhuis (Hol) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 6-3, 4-6, 6-4; P Sampras (US) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-3, 6-4; J Hlasek (Switz) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-6, 6-3, G Forget (Fr) bt T Muster (Austria) 6-3, 7-6, M Rosset (Switz) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-4, 6-2 Third round: J Courier (US) bt M Larsson (Swe) 6-3, 6-4; M Chang (US) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Championship
Leeds v Wigan (7.30)

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

ICIS LEAGUE: Second division: Leatherhead v Banstead

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Frome v Chippenham.

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division (7.45) Bohemians v Shamrock; Drogheda v Sligo; St Patrick's Ath v Shelbourne.

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v Durham.

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League (8.0): Newcastle v Birmingham; Hemel v Sheffield; London v Doncaster; Thames Valley v Worthing

BOXING: Commonwealth middleweight championship (vacant). Robert McCracken (England) v Fitzgerald Bruney (Canada) (Dudley Town Hall).

TENNIS: Guardian Direct national championships (Telford).

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *44*

HODEN
(c) Of or pertaining to the horse with wooden head and clapping jaws featured in a masquerade that formerly took place in Kent on Christmas Eve. Origin uncertain. Kentish dialect, perhaps from association with *wooden* from the wooden horse's head. "The Hoden Horse, a mystic man-animal found only in East Kent, will be at large in Folkestone."

NEUE SACHLICHKEIT
(b) A movement in the fine arts, music and literature, which developed in Germany during the 1920s and was characterised by realism and a deliberate rejection of romantic attitudes. German for "new objectivity". "After its first performance in 1923, Hindemith's *Marienleben* was hailed as a shining example of Neue Sachlichkeit, a new matter-of-fact contrapuntal style then emerging, which represented a conscious reaction against the hyper-romantic attitude prevalent earlier this century."

HOAGIE
(a) A sandwich made of a French loaf split lengthways and filled with lettuce and a variety of cold meats and cheeses. United States dialect, origin unknown.

KARAKIA
(a) A Maori incantation. "The priests established oral communication with their gods by means of karakia. A karakia may be defined as a formula of words which was chanted to obtain benefit or avert trouble. They cover a range which exceeds the bounds of religion. It is therefore impossible for one English word to cover adequately all the meanings of karakia. All karakia are chants but there are a number of chants which are not karakia. Probably incantation is the nearest in general meaning."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. . . . Rxc2!; 2. Rxc2 (2. Kxb4 Rxd2) 2, . . . Rb3+; 3. Ka2 Re3+ and Black emerges two pawns ahead with a trivial win.

RADIO CHOICE

The healthy revolution

The Power of Peckham. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

The Peckham Experiment has been rescued by Simon Parkes and Sue Broom from the land where forgotten projects lie. It was born in the mid-1930s, and Broom and Parkes found enough survivors of the revolutionary experiment to give this two-part history its air of authenticity. Part leisure centre, part clinic, Peckham's brief was to study the "science of life", what we now call holistic medicine. Researchers monitored the health and activities of volunteer families. An organic farm was opened, wholemeal bread vigorously promoted. The government of the day turned its back on Peckham and it ran out of cash. Its fate might have been different in an age that adopts a more tolerant attitude towards alternative medicine.

The Music Machine: The Big Sing. *Radio 3, 5.00pm.*

Ali Carter's five helpful programmes about choral singing have offered an insider's view. Carter is a member of the famed Bach Choir. I cannot think of a single aspect of the chorister's life that she has not touched on in this series. Discipline, companionship and the sheer joy of combined effort — harmony of every kind — have emerged as the principal benefits. There is sometimes a bonus. A professional soloist can emerge from the ranks of non-professional choirs such as the Bach Choir. Eventually, what it boils down to is this: it is not only what you can do for a choir that counts; it is what a choir can do for you.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Clive Warren **6.00** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, including at **12.30-12.45** Newsbeat and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Kevin Greening **4.00** Mark Goodier, incl at **4.40** *Judge Dredd*; at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and at **6.15** The Net **7.00** Camden Live **10.00** John Peel **1.00** Radio 1 Rap Show

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Trevor McDonald **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Panel Beaters **7.30** Friday Night is Music Night **8.45** *Raffles* (5/6) **9.00** Listen to the Band **10.00** George Melly in St Ives, Cornwall **12.05am** Digby Fairweather **1.00** Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55** and **7.55** Racing Preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl Euronews and at **11.00** News; Chain Reaction **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck; and at **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05** Ruscoe on Five, incl at **3.45** Entertainment News **4.00** Nationwide, incl at **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, incl at **7.20** sport **7.35** Parkinson on Sport **9.05** American Graffiti **9.35** Stop Press **10.05** Entertainment Superhighway **11.00** Night Extra, incl at **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** Moz Dee **10.00** Mike Allen **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **GMT**. **5.00am** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** In the Lion's Den **8.00** News **8.10** Faith **8.15** Music Review **9.00** News in German **9.15** Focus on Faith **9.45** Sport **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Meridian **12.00** News **12.05pm** Business Report **12.15** Britain *Today* **12.30** *Science* **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack: Alternative **3.00** News in German **3.15** Music *Review* **4.00** News **4.15** The World Today **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sport **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** News in German **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Faith **7.30** Multitrack **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** People and Politics **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.10** Spotlight **11.15** In the Lion's Den **11.45** Farming **Midnight** Newsdesk **12.30** From the Weeklies **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** News **1.10** Press Review **1.15** Seven Days **1.30** Jazz **1.45** Good Books **2.00** Newsday **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.15** Sport **3.30** Vintage Chart **4.00** Newsdesk **4.30** Europe Today **4.45** Folk Routes

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** Classic Verdict **8.00** Evening Concert, recorded in St Alban's Cathedral **10.00** Tim Lihoreau **1.00am** Charles Nove

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Howard Pearce

RADIO 3

5.55am Weather
6.00 On Air: Including Ravel (Ballet *Daphnis et Chloé*); Scheibe (*Sinfonia à 16 in D*); Barber (Summer Music); **8.05** *Symphony Series*: Mozart (Symphony No 17 in G, K129); **8.35** Korngold (Violin Concerto in D)
9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini: Dohnányi (Variations on a Nursery Theme); Duparc (Le Manoir de Rosemonde; Sérénade florentine); Franck (Violin Sonata in A)
10.00 Musical Encounters: Including Stravinsky (Scherzo fantastique); **10.10** *Artist of the Week*: Ralph Kirshbaum, cello. Beethoven (Cello Sonata in A, Op 69); Strauss (Hymne, Op 34 No 2); Alwyn (Symphony No 5); Wolf (Frühling übers Jahr; Ganymed, Goethe Lieder); Brahms (Piano Trio in C minor, Op 101); Lilburn (Allegro for strings)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Chopin the Revolutionary
1.00pm Bristol Lunchtime Concert: Gyorgy Pauk, violin, Roger Vignoles, piano. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in C minor, Op 30 No 2); Bartók (Violin Sonata No 2)
2.00 Schools: Let's Make a Story **2.15** Music Box **2.30** Dance Workshop **2.50** Poetry Corner
3.00 Mining the Archive: Alexander Gibson, conductor. With music by Berlioz, Sibelius and Rachmaninov
4.20 Fairest Isle: Turns of the Century. Russell Davies celebrates Beryl Reid
4.30 Dreamsongs: The Australian poet Les Murray presents the music of Aboriginal Australia
5.00 The Music Machine. The Big Sing. See Choice
5.15 In Tune, with Natalie Wheen. Bartók (Romanian Folk Dances); Szymanowski (Nocturne and Tarantella, Op 28); John Adams (The Chairman Dances)
7.30 Fairest Isle: Medea, live from Glasgow's Tramway. Brian Morton introduces a new concert version of Gavin Bryar's bloodthirsty tale. Sung in Greek, French and English. With the Scottish Opera Chorus, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins, with Patricia Bardon, Gidon Saks and Majella Cullagh. Acts 1 and 2; **8.30** Myths and Magic, with Geoffrey Baskerville; **8.50** Acts 3, 4 and 5
10.30 John Keats (1795-1821): Reading Keats. A.S. Byatt examines the *Ode on a Grecian Urn*
10.45 Fairest Isle: Hear and Now, live from the Tramway in Glasgow. Janice Forsyth introduces Judith Weir (Distance and Enchantment); Alisdair Nicolson (Don't Explain); Magnus Robbe (Ancient Language of Birds); Gordon MacPherson (Lame God); Alisdair Nicolson (Punch); Magnus Robbe (Summoning Dawn, the Rubythroat Dreaming)
12.00 Fairest Isle: The Quest for Deirdre. Extracts from operatic versions of J.M. Synge's last work, *Deirdre of the Sorrows* (r)
1.00-1.10am Catch as Catch Can. The Miller's Daughter (5)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News, incl weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day, with the *Rev Ernest Rea* **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** *Thought for the Day* **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is Umberto Eco (r)
9.45 Feedback: Chris Dunkley airs listeners' letters and comments
10.00-10.30 News; The Power of Peckham (FM only): See Choice
10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)
10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)
10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced from Manchester by Ruth Pitt
11.30 The Natural History Programme, presented by Joanna Pinnock
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Liz Barclay
12.25pm The Food Programme: What does the future hold for our home-grown apples? **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, presented by Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 News; The Eve of St Agnes Keats's poem dramatised. With Michael Maloney (r)
3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor. Glen Cooksley visits Wanlockhead in the Scottish Highlands
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope in Aldeburgh: Paul Allen reports live from Aldeburgh's annual poetry festival
4.45 Short Story: The Suffer the Children Man, by Colin Greenland. Read by Geoffrey Whitehead
5.00 PM, with Nigel Wrench and Linda Lewis **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Going Places, presented by David Stafford. June Tabor discovers the poetry of the Heart of Wales Railway
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week, with Christopher Serle
8.05 Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby's guests include Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College, Oxford; David Hunt, MP; George Robertson, MP, Shadow Scottish Secretary; and Arthur Scargill, President of the NUM
8.50 Law in Action: Marcel Berlins presents a topical programme which examines the judgments and the issues in the law
9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke
9.30 Kaleidoscope Longings (r) **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Booker at Bedtime: Morality Play, by Barry Unsworth
11.00 Week Ending: Sally Grace, Jeffrey Holland and Toby Longworth take a sceptical look at the week's events
11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Hannan and guests
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 News, incl **12.27** Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The Handmaid's Tale, by Margaret Atwood. Read by Buffy Davis (10/10) **12.48** Shipping Forecast
1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO UK.** MW 1053, 1089. **Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson**

First Leisure in step for high profits

By Christine Buckley

CROWDED dancefloors helped to make for upbeat figures from First Leisure, the disco and tenpin bowling group. The group, which will report final results fully in January, said yesterday that sales in its dance venues were up 14 per cent in the year to October 31.

This was in spite of the disposal of five discos in March, although this was offset by a 5 per cent rise in admission prices and increased spending at bars.

Bowling also showed improved performance and helped to lift the sports division's sales 7 per cent on a like-for-like basis.

First Leisure's bingo operations seem to have defied the National Lottery. Admissions and sales were running ahead of expectations in the larger capacity clubs opened during the year. But the group said the benefits would not appear immediately.

Success in these activities will help to offset the impact of a slip in sales at the group's resorts.

SS ROUNDUP

nsurance formed

s '£1.6m hole'

dvances

on EU law

form urged

ms returns

G&N rises in first half

صكرا من الاصل

Molly and the major end a major flirtation

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Goodness, what an emotional week it is turning out to be. No sooner have we bade a tearful farewell to Elizabeth and Darcy, than it's time to say our goodbyes to the participants in television's other great romance of recent weeks, Molly Dineen and Major Crispin Black.

Of course, they'll deny everything. Just two people getting on with their jobs, they'll say. She a distinguished documentary maker, he a senior officer in the Welsh Guards. But after three weeks of **In the Company of Men** (BBC2), we know better.

A more honest woman would have called her film *In the Company of One Man*. True, Dineen would go off and interview some disillusioned squaddie from time to time ("join the Army and see the world, join the Guards and clean it") or one of those charming officers ("it's all about alpha males and gamma males") but, as last night's concluding instalment made clear, deep down she had cameras for only one man — the dashing Major Black.

Their flirtation was exquisite. He would boom authoritatively on any number of subjects — the importance of discipline, the role of women — while *her contributions from behind the camera were* becomingly *sotto voce*, modestly confined to prompting her eloquent amour to say still more.

Last night the gallant major needed no second bidding, pulling out all the stops in his efforts to impress. He forswore other *women as they* gavotted most immodestly (the other women, that is) in the officers' mess: he casually revealed he was on chatting terms with the Prince of Wales and, most significantly of all, he introduced Dineen to his mother.

His mother, of course, did what all mothers do to sons in such circumstances; she *embarrassed* him. Crispin might have been an actor, she confided, but he does like an ordered life. Not a bit like his brother, Tarquin, apparently — who presumably has a full-time job appearing in Jilly Cooper novels.

Only once did Black stray on to dangerous ground, when he turned his heavy weapons on Dineen's employer, the BBC. "John Birt wouldn't hack it as a platoon commander in my company. I'd sack him." There was the sound of swooning behind the camera, followed by a feeble "*Why's that?*" "*I suspect he's a* man who's trying to do things to an institution, which for whatever reason, that institution does not want to happen." The subtext was obvious. Dearest, loveliest Molly, let me rescue you from all that.

Whether one word from her silenced him on the subject for ever *we sadly never found out, because* Dineen chose a victory parade in Brussels rather than a wedding as her finale. While she remained invisible to the end, the major was resplendent in tunic and bearskin. "You're getting me all emotional," said a veteran. He spoke for us all.

But as the finals credits rolled, two big questions remained. Did the major ever get to kiss sweet Molly Dineen and, if so, did he *take his bearskin off?*

No kissing, of course, in Taggart (ITV). "Fancy a takeaway?" asked DI Jardine (James Macpherson). "No, I fancy my bed," replied DS Reid (Blythe Duff), the only police officer in Glasgow to wear kitten heels. Inevitably, neither got either, because, in the best traditions of police dramas, the phone rang. An ageing pop star had been electrocuted in his swimming pool and his girlfriend stabbed and dumped in the Jacuzzi.

Now, I may be suffering from overexposure to *Cracker* but my initial reaction to that storyline was a slight smile. And, with the exception of a gratuitously graphic beating-up scene, the smile remained for most of this opening episode of a three-part story. Definitely un-Taggartian and definitely a bit worrying.

For while I have no doubt that Macpherson and Duff can carry *Taggart* without Mark McManus, *they will have trouble if they are* given scripts that stray too far from the underlying darkness of old. Barry Appleton's script strayed pretty dangerously; the only underlying thing about it was its basic silliness — a lot of old popstars apparently bumping each other off. More Bergerac's line, I would have thought.

The rapidly rising number of dead were all members of a group called the Adders. "We're talking Scottish folklore here," said DC Fraser (Colin McCredie), a young man who is understandably having trouble taking the thing seriously. Something of a music buff himself, Fraser later revealed to a packed briefing room that it was the group's 25th anniversary (of what we weren't told) and that a re-released single had just entered the charts at number 49. "It might be a piece of useless information, but I thought I'd *just mention it.*" All quite enjoyable, just not very *Taggart*.

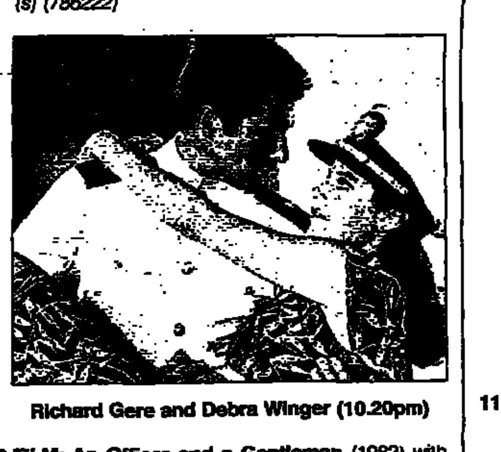
All quite enjoyable, just very, very long, is increasingly the best description of **Jake's Progress** (Channel 4) where there are growing signs that Alan Bleasdale, its writer, has been royally indulged. There is no denying the scale of its ambition or the calibre of the performances that Robin Lefevre, the director, has secured from Robert Lindsay, Julie Walters and Barclay Wright. But really, there is a limit to how much of our lives we can dedicate to Master Diadoni and his unhappy parents. Last night we reached hour six — there are still three more to go.

"Tell me why you deserve our love, our time, our attention," screamed someone at the terminally antisocial Jake last night. I think it was his mother, but it could easily have been me.

Lynne Truss is on holiday

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (16116)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (94008951)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (4648319)
10.00 News (Ceefax)(5095970) **10.05 Housemates.** Quiz (s) (8837113)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick With Faith Brown (s) (4906086)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9090222) **12.05pm Pebble Mill.** With Margi Clarke and Uri Geller (s) (4156970)
12.50 Regional news (Ceefax) (23863222)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (22244)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (92263609)
1.50 Columbo: Publish or Perish (r) (Ceefax) (3165154) **3.05 Incognito** (s) (1494135)
3.30 Orville and Cuddles (r) (6385845) **3.35 Robinson Sucroe** (Ceefax) (s) (5618135) **4.00 The Itsy Bitsy Spider** (s) (6607203) **4.20 Julia Jekyll and Harriet Hyde** (Ceefax) (s) (2783715) **4.35 Record Breakers** (Ceefax) (s) (1256609)
5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (8278715)
5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (5864116)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (262932)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (51)
6.30 Regional news magazines (13)
7.00 Wipeout. Game show (Ceefax) (s) (6338)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Howard Stableford reports on a new Japanese cancer treatment; James Younger tries out a new helmet for American footballers which incorporates an airbag. (Ceefax) (s) (15)
8.00 999 Lifesavers. Michael Buerk and Juliet Morris present a special programme on the dangers of Bonfire Night and how to avoid them (Ceefax) (s) (5086)
8.30 A Question of Sport. Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham captain two teams answering questions put by David Coleman (s) (4593)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1241)
9.30 Dangerfield Police surgeon/GP drama. (Ceefax) *(s) (786222)*



Richard Gere and Debra Winger (10.20pm)

10.20 FILM: An Officer and a Gentleman (1982) with Richard Gere, Louis Gossett Jr, Debra Winger. Box-office hit film, a romantic drama about a group of would-be navy officers on a gruelling, 13-week selection course. Cut for language and explicit sex. Directed by Taylor Hackford (Ceefax) (486241) **Wales**: The Way It Is (136390) 10.50 Film: An Officer and a Gentleman (86624116) 12.50am Film: The Navigator (6706029) 2.20 News headlines and *weather (7602520)*
12.20am FILM: The Navigator (1988, colour and b/w). With Bruce Lyons. During the 14th century, the inhabitants of a mining community in Cumbria live in fear of the advancing plague, the Black Death. When a boy has a dream of salvation, the villagers set out on a fantastic journey, digging through the Earth in a race against and across time. Directed by Vincent Ward (s) (6761365)
1.50am Weather (9221926)

BBC2

6.00 Flight Simulators and Robots (9936154) **6.25 The True Geometry of Nature** (9915661) **6.50 Opening Up Technology** (3949680)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (4332203)
7.15 Lassie (r) (3117406) **7.40 Pirates of Dark Water** (r) (1574086) **8.05 Smart** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3708222)
8.35 The Record (s) (4581406)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Including, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (6237339) **2.00** Fiddley Foodle Bird (47301048)
2.10 Sport on Friday Action from the National Tennis Championships (s). Includes at **3.00** News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (299845) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (6170680)
4.00 Today's the Day. History quiz (s) (16)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook. Chefs compete (s) (28)
5.00 Esther. The guest is David Essex (s) (4116)
5.30 Going Going Gone. Auction game (s) (80)
6.00 The Munsters (b/w) (Ceefax) (379864)
6.25 The New Avengers: To Catch a Rat. Vintage caper series (r). (Ceefax) (161661)
7.15 Football, Fussball, Voetbal. Four decades of European football. This week: the British teams (473338)
8.00 Top Gear Motorsport. The McLaren F1; the Manx Grand Prix; and a review of Formula Ford racing (Ceefax) (s) (3628)
8.30 CHOICE **Jancis Robinson's Wine Course: Grape Invaders.** (Ceefax) (s) (2135)
9.00 Not the Nine O'Clock News. Comedy repeat (Ceefax) (9883)
9.30 Shooting Stars. *Comedy quiz with Vic Reeves and* Bob Mortimer, Mark Lamarr and Ulrika Jonsson, David Baddiel, Muriel Gray, Paul Shane and Annabel Giles (Ceefax) (s) (50864)
10.00 Have I Got News for You. Topical quiz. This week with Ian Hislop, Paul Merton, Bob Mills and Alex Salmond (s) (22593)
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (340864)

Paul Brophy eyes the talent (11.15pm)

11.15 CHOICE **Don't Give Up Your Day Job** (s) (958116) **Wales**: Welsh Lobby 11.45 Don't Give Up Your Day Job 12.20am The Best of the Real McCoy 12.50-2.25 Film: A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon
11.45 Weather (651932)
11.50 The Best of the Real McCoy (232947)
12.20am FILM: A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon (1988). Coming-of-age drama starring River Phoenix and Meredith Salenger. Directed by William Richert (397907). Ends **1.55**

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CHOICE

Jancis Robinson's Wine Course
BBC2, 8.30pm

The word on the grapevine this week is that regional individuality is being sacrificed in favour of *international homogeneity*. Abandoning the format of concentrating on one particular flavour, Jancis instead warns us against the grape invaders. Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are taking over the world's vineyards. These "chocolate and vanilla flavours" of the wine world are pushing out the indigenous grapes. She takes us to Piedmont, Italy, where the Nebbiolo vine flavours the Barola and Barbaresco wines. Here, the clash of the old and new titans is being replayed as the grand old traditionalist is pitted against the new *whizzkid who has sacrificed his Nebbiolo vineyard to* plant Cabernet Sauvignon. The cad. A series to be enjoyed as much for its piquant characters as for its piquant wines.

Moviewatch
Channel 4, 6.30pm

Hollywood has been targeting the youth market since the 1950s so it makes undoubted sense to have a bunch of teenagers review their efforts. Back for its fourth *series is this flashy cross between Juke Box Jury and Film 95*. The format has not changed. The vaguely annoying Johnny Vaughan travels to a different city each week and gets a quartet of teens to give their reactions to the week's latest releases and then award marks out of ten. Some make intelligent comments, some are just glad to be on the telly, and one has even graduated to presenter status. Caroline Tudor is now quizzing stars instead of awarding them. With the clips interspersed with stars promoting their latest vehicles, *this is good youth television. An enterprising eight.*

Arthur Haynes in a sombre mood (Ch4, 9.00pm)

Heroes of Comedy
Channel 4 9.00pm

Perhaps the least well known of all the comedy greats selected for lauding in this series is Arthur Haynes. Hugely famous in the 1960s for his variety of belligerent working-class characters, his career was cut short by his death in 1966. Maybe the lack of source material is the reason why the programme is less rich than previous efforts. The sketches are still marvellously evocative but there is a striking lack of warmth when compared to previous homages. In fact, we seem to learn more about Johnny Speight, who wrote most of Haynes's television material, than we do about Haynes. Straight man Nicholas Parsons pays the comedian tribute but since he was given the sack because he was too good, his testimony can only hint at Haynes's true character.

Don't Give Up Your Day Job
BBC2 11.15pm

The Beeb makes its play for the back-from-the-pub audience with this variation on the talent show format. With the idea of having a tacky flat as a set to add intimacy, the show's format is simplicity itself. Stand-up comedian Paul Brophy entertains a panel of three celebrities who are invited to watch videos of hopeful acts drawn from the great British public. The panel are then invited to give their frank opinions — in other words to be rude and as funny as possible. A special phone-in is on offer to give viewers their chance to vote for the act they wish to see again.

Frances Lass

CARLTON/LWT

6.00am GMTV (9342609)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep Quiz show (s) (9691593)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (9582406)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (8218883)
10.35 This Morning Magazine series (72332845)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (9096406)
12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (9029970)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9004661)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (40395749)
1.55 Shortland Street (92251864)
2.20 The Chrystal Rose Show (s) (70400593)
2.50 High Road. (Teletext) (2961135)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8163951)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (8162222)
3.30 Jays World: Mud (s) (5198116) **3.40 St Tiggywinkles** (5101680) **3.55 The Spooks of Bottle Bay: Spooks Ashore** (s) (5996883) **4.15 Freakazoid!** (6611406)
4.40 Fun House (Teletext) (s) (2370406)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating. (Teletext) (7208999)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (366390)
6.25 London Tonight (Teletext) (447628)
7.00 Family Fortunes. The Lawless family from Birmingham compete against the Snow family from Huddersfield. (Teletext) (s) (1406)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (83)
8.00 The Bill: A Year and a Day. The burger van wars in Sun Hill leave Greig and Skase with a murder which took place a year ago, but why will no one help them? (Teletext) (8834)
8.30 Strange but True? The Woman Who Knew Too Much Michael Aspel presents implausible stories. Etta Smith had a vision that a missing woman was dead and her body was lying in a canyon. When she was proved right, the LAPD arrested her for murder, but they had to release her years later, when the real culprits were caught (9661)

Tom Baker and Dinah Stabb (9.00pm)

9.00 Medics: In Sickness and In Health. Hospital drama. Hoyt (Tom Baker) gets to the church on time but where is the bride (Dinah Stabb)? Anxious moments, too, for Robert when Jay collapses with stomach pains. (Teletext) (s) (3357)
10.00 ITN News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (26319)
10.30 Friday Night Almost Live. Comedy from 1988 introduced by Ben Elton. Among the guests is Robbie Coltrane (r) (97241)
11.30 Doctor Fox's Video Jukebox (61777)
12.30am London Tonight (Teletext) (4079433)
12.40 Sledge Hammer (1689162)
1.05 The James Whale Show. (s) (4766029)
2.05 The Chart Show (s) (4163810)
3.00 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (s) (37115520)
3.25 Noisy Mothers (s) (3726297)
4.30 The New Music Discussion with musicians, young people, sociologists and teachers about whether violence in our society is increasing (11568)
5.30 ITN Morning News (39544). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff (r) (8510636)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (25715)
9.00 Evening Shade (r) (s) (36796)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (4135609) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (4123864) **10.00** Fourways Farm (5079932) **10.10** Believe It Or Not (4559951) **10.27** Maths Book (3024883) **10.40** Off Limits (1640680) **11.05** Ready, Set, Go! (6047406) **11.20** Stage One (6068999) **11.35** Schools at Work (9626845) **11.40** How We Used to Live (164222)
12.00 Garden Doctors (r) (Teletext) (s) (16932)
12.30pm Sesame Street. The guests are Kadeem Hardison and the Tokyo String Quartet (30999) **1.30** ***Katie and Orbie*** *(r) (64067)* ***2.00 Rhythmitis****. An early song and dance film* (70404319)
2.25 FILM: The Happy Family (1952, b/w) starring Stanley Holloway, Kathleen Harrison, Naunton Wayne, George Cole, Dandy Nichols and Miles Malleson. Satirical comedy about a couple who refuse to leave their house, due to be demolished to make an access road to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Directed by Muriel Box. (Teletext) (284048)
4.00 Think Tank. Quiz. (Teletext) (s) (12) **4.30 Fifteen** ***To One****. Quiz. (Teletext) (s) (96)*
5.00 Cutting Edge: Road Rage (r). (Teletext) (8319)
6.00 Blossom. Los Angeles-based teen comedy (r). (Teletext) (s) (61)

Johnny Vaughan and Caroline Tudor (6.30pm)

6.30 CHOICE **Moviewatch.** (Teletext) (s) (41)
7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) (177311)
7.55 Book Choice. Molly Parkin reviews Andrew Barr's *Drink* (Teletext) (185067)
8.00 A Taste of Africa. *In the first of a six-part series* Dorinda Hafner samples the culinary delights of Zimbabwe (r). (Teletext) (s) (8796)
8.30 Brookside. Soap set in and around a suburban Merseyside close (Teletext) (s) (7203)
9.00 CHOICE **Heroes Of Comedy: Arthur Haynes.** (Teletext) (1999)
10.00 Frasier. Niles and Frasier both want to join an exclusive club, but there is only one vacancy. Who will be the one to be accepted? (Teletext) (s) (17661)
10.30 Clive Anderson Talks Back. The guests are John Redwood, MP, Maureen Lipman and Vanessa-Mae (s) (335932)
11.15 Crapston Villas. Adult puppet series. (s) (728883)
11.30 Passengers. Youth magazine series (s) (694357)
12.20am FILM: The Big Sleep (1946, b/w). Atmospheric thriller, based on the novel by Raymond Chandler, starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. Directed by Howard Hawks. (Teletext) (65557636)
2.25am Beastly Behaviour — The Long One. Extended animation about sex life in the animal kingdom (1211471)
3.10 FILM: Sherlock Holmes Faces Death (1943, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone as the cerebral sleuth and Nigel Bruce as his assistant, Dr Watson. In this, Holmes investigates a series of strange murders in a Northumberland convalescent home. Directed by Roy William Neill (2637297). Ends at **4.25**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9004661) **1.25** Home and Away (40395749) **1.55** A Country Practice (92251864) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (8908135) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (7208999) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (99) **10.30** Anglia News Extra (35067) **11.00** Six Pairs of Pants (8154) **11.30** Plugged (803715) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (7630181) **1.30** The Loop (68636) **2.00** Blood Ties (2213181) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (6459487) **4.05** The Album Show (9131617) **5.00** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (13100)

CENTRAL
As London except: 1.55 *A Country Practice* (92251864) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (8908135) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street *(7208999)* ***6.25-7.00*** *Central* News and Weather (447628) **10.40** Central Weekend (1652845) **12.10am** Who Do You Do? (6745742) **12.40** Beyond Reality (1689162) **4.25-5.20** Jobfinder (3779433)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9004661) **1.25** Home and Away (11547951) **1.50** Blue Heelers (6349135) **2.50-3.20** Growing Pains (2961135) **5.10-5.40** High Road (7208999) ***6.25-7.00*** *Granada Tonight (447628)* ***10.40*** *Passion (805390)* **11.10** Cream of Manchester (939932) **11.55** Hunter (668574) **12.50am-1.05** Pop Profile (4060549)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (7853777) **1.20** High Road (49845208) **2.20-3.20** Murder, She Wrote (8908135) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (7208999) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (99) **10.30** HTV West Headlines and Weather (424491) **10.45** Film: The Blob (61017116) **12.35am** The Good Sex Guide Abroad (3484568)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (99) **10.30-10.45** HTV Wales News and Weather (424491)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9004661) **1.25** Home and Away (40395749) **1.55** A Country Practice (92251864) **2.20-2.50** Houseparty (70400593) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (7208999) **6.00-7.00** Meridian Tonight (42845) **11.00** Six Pairs of Pants (8154) **11.30** Plugged (803715) **12.35am** The James Whale Show (7630181) **1.30** The Loop (68636) **2.00** Blood Ties (2213181) **3.10** Noisy Mothers (6459487) **4.05-5.00** The Album Show (9131617)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry News (9582406) **12.20pm** Westcountry News (9005154) **12.25-12.30** My Story (9004425) **12.55** Coronation Street (9004661) **1.25** Home and Away (40395749) **1.55** *Frances Bissell's Westcountry Kitchen (25838048)* ***2.25-3.20*** *Murder, She Wrote* (8374406) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News, Weather (8162222) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (7208999) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (42845) **10.30** Westcountry News; Weather (230929) **10.40** Top Guns (805390) **11.10** Good Advice (451574) **11.40** Tales from the Crypt (335222) **12.05am** Sandie Shaw - Live From London (7651097)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.55 Coronation Street (9004661) **1.25** Home and Away (40395749) **1.55** A Country Practice (92251864) **2.20-3.10** Murder, She Wrote (8384883) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (7208999) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (701203) **6.30-7.00** It's a Vet's Life (99) **10.30** Calendar News and Weather (230929) **10.40** Tales from the Crypt (805390) **11.10** War and Remembrance (441203) **1.00am** The James Whale Show (10520) **2.00** The Big E (4171839) **2.55** The Beat (1160433) **3.50** Shift (4420549) **4.40** Profile (51972452) **5.00** ITV Sport Classics (13100)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25715) **9.00** Evening Shade (36796) **9.30** Schools (54680) **9.30** Eureka! (4135609) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (4123864) **10.00** Fourways Farm (5079932) **10.10** Believe It or Not (4559951) **10.27** Mathsbook (3024883) **10.40** Off Limits (1640680) **11.05** Ready, Set, Go (6047406) **11.20** Stage One (6068999) **11.35** Schools At Work (9626845) *11.40 How We Used To Live (4456777)* **12.00** Sesame Street (44203) **1.00** Slot Meithrin (95574) **1.30** Film: The Bribe (53514135) **3.20** Terrytoons (8152845) **3.30** Desperately Seeking Something (77) **4.00** 5 Think Tank (12) **4.30** Hands Up (96) **5.00** 5 Pump: Pump: Tentalent (3751864) **5.15** 5 Pump: Syth 95 (8240932) **5.30** Fifteen To One (48) **6.00** Newyddion (728116) **6.15** Heno (177357) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (498883) **7.25** Y Tri Dimensiwn (706203) **8.00** Cefn Gwlad Dafydd Ac Ais Glyn Dalry (8796) **8.30** *Newyddion (7203)* **9.00** Llond Bol (519406) **9.45** Tales Of Battered Britain, The Son's Tale (891680) **10.00** Brookside (17661) **10.30** Clive Anderson Talks Back (344690) **11.10** Crapston Villas (722574) **11.30** Passengers (694357) **12.20** Film: The Big Sleep (65557636) **2.25** Beastly Behaviour — The Long One (3941365) **2.55** Film: Sherlock Holmes Faces Death (2252384) **4.10** Close

SATELLITE

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE
7.00am DJ Kat (51338) **8.00** Power Rangers (73241) **8.30** Jeopardy (72512) **9.00** Court TV (63864) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (65512) **10.30** Blockbusters (69048) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (37574) **12.00** Spellbound **12.30pm** Designing Women (83116) **1.00** The Waltons (11999) **2.00** Geraldo **3.00** Court TV (3883) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (9948512) **4.20** Kids TV (1479864) **5.00** The Next Generation (4135) **6.00** Power Rangers (3999) **6.30** Spellbound (7951) **7.00** LAPD (5864) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3135) **8.00** Who Do You Do? (4512) **8.30** Coppers (5749) **9.00** Walker Texas Ranger (21390) **10.00** The Next Generation (31777) **11.00** Law and Order (58067) **12.00** David Letterman (9876758) **12.45am** The Extraordinary (3323617) **1.30** Anything But Love (39181) **2.00-4.00** Hit Mix (6481926)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3262845) **10.30** ABC Nightline (50390) **11.00** News and Business (610222) **1.30pm** CBS News (26135) **2.30** Parliament (84574) **3.30** *Parliament Live* (5357) **4.00** News and Business (35280) **5.00** Live at Five (2777) **6.30** Tonight (17203) **8.30** Entertainment (1661) **9.00** News and Business (371661) **11.30** CBS News (92222) **12.30am** ABC News (61276) **1.30** Tonight (99986) **2.30** Target (93723) **3.30** The Lords (40128) **4.30** CBS News (39968) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (23346)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (4878154) **10.00 Surf Ninjas** (1993) (87932) **12.00 Author! Author!** (1982) **2.00pm One of Our Spies Is Missing** (1965) (55357) **4.00 The Adventures of the Wilderness Family** (1975) (9067) **6.00 Surf Ninjas** (1993). As 10am (35593) **8.00 Mario and the Mob** (1990) (47338) **10.00 Romeo Is Bleeding** (1993) (385048) **11.50 A Better Tomorrow** (1986) (922048) **1.25am Kika** (1993) (595704) **3.15-5.15 Chantilly Lace** (1993) (75306384)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm Come Fill the Cup (1951) (8999) **6.00 Gigi** (1958) (52945) **8.00 In the Heat of the Night** (1967) (53690) **10.00 Youngblood** (1986) (285951) **11.55 The French Connection II** (1975) (784951) **1.50-3.30-5.30am Lust for a Vampire** (1970) (285100)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Tarzan and the Leopard Woman (1946) (77999) **8.00 Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland** (1993) (35628) **10.00 Mon Pere Ce Heros** (1992) (85574) **12.00 Interlude** (1957) (18951) **2.00pm What's Eating Gilbert Grape?** (1994) (53899) **4.00 Little Nemo: Adventures in Slumberland** (1993) As 8am (7609) **6.00 Seasons of the Heart** (1994) (98222) **7.30 UK Top Ten** (6845) **8.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape?** (1994) As 2pm (39880) **10.00 So I Married an Axe Murderer** (1993) (641241) **11.35 Rikki and Pete** (1988) (687574) **1.20am Candyman** (1992) (606946) **3.00-5.00 L'Ombre du Doute** (1993) (9601907)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (32611135) **6.30** Muppet Babies (27723154) **7.00** Pooh (67538970) **7.30** Ducktales (67522777) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale (82525593) **8.30** Wonderland (82524864) **9.00** Fraggle Rock (82515116) **9.30** Pooh (90941390) **10.00** Dumbo (27714406) **10.30** Quack (82544628) **11.00** Walt Disney (67531425) **12.00** FILM: Diamonds on Wheels (56886999) **1.30pm** The Making of Eyewitness (90951777) **2.00** Wonderland (78457390) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (86361512) **3.00** Fraggle (78476425) **3.30** Winnie the Pooh (86373357) **4.00** Quack Attack (86352864) **4.30** Ducktales **5.00** Cyberstar (11258319) **6.30** Faerie Tale Theatre (68782777) **7.30** Eyewitness (86358777) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Every Girl Should Be Married (99527390)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Tennis (89338) **8.00** Eurofun (86390) **8.30** Triathlon (54135) **9.30** Adventure (33898) **10.30** Eurofun (54375) **11.00** Boxing (86406) **12.00** Football (61067) **2.00pm** Truck Racing (2932) **2.30** Motorcycling (13556) **3.30** Offroad (81574) **4.30** Motorsports (55864) **5.30** Truck Racing (42864) **6.30** News (6135) **7.00** Handball (17067) **8.30** Live Boxing (51512) **10.00** Pro Wrestling (95999) **11.00** Darts (89951) **12.00-12.30am** News (79549)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Racing News (85135) **7.30** Centre (97970) **8.00** Wrestling Zone (81583) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (81845) **9.30** Tight Lines *(33970)* ***10.30*** *World of Rugby* Union (10357) **11.00** ATP Tennis — Paris Open, Live (5214609) **5.00pm** Wrestling Raw (7721) **6.00** Centre (19116) **7.00** The Big League, Live: Leeds v Wigan (22182512) **9.25** Centre (347319) **9.30** Boxing Preview (87777) **11.30** Centre (30406) **12.30am** ATP Tennis (79128) **2.30-4.30** The Big League (47433)

Mike Tyson's story is on the History Channel at 6.00pm

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00am Trans World (9398574) **8.00** Golf (9585951) **10.30** Pool (8391845) **12.00-1.00am** Trans World (4627810)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL
4.00pm *Living World* (1492086) **5.00** Kenneth Copeland (4509319) **5.30** Kidz TV (4749066) **5.45** Entertainment (9818680) **6.15** Benny Hinn (1594226) **6.45-7.00** Music

SKY SOAP
7.00am Guiding Light (1929222) **7.55** As the World Turns (8261512) **8.50** Peyton Place (2142241) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (2747203) **10.10-11.10** Another World

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (2006932) **11.30** American Vacation (1285135) **12.30pm** The Restaurant Show (1081338) **1.00** Around the World (9789319) **1.30** Hawaii Cooks (1080609) **2.00** E Report (6786609) **2.30** Cruising the Globe (6343970) **3.00** Getaway (6785116) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (6355715)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Our Century (2020512) **5.00** History (6789796) **6.00** Biography (1099357)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
1.00am Swamp Thing (4415926) **1.30** Ray Bradbury (3451723) **2.00-4.00** FILM: The Abominable Snowman (5229742)

TLC
9.00am Painting (8742390) **9.30** Cooking with Kurma (2582951) **10.00** The Gamekeeper's Tale (4592406) **10.30** Soul Mates (8748574) **11.00** Only Human (2116357) **11.45** Draw with Don **12.00** Who Cares Wins (8762154) **12.30pm** Jimmy's (2593067) **1.00** Cooking with Kurma (5140715) **1.30** Painting (2592338) **2.00** The Right Thing? (7952680) **2.30** Get Well Soon (6659970) **3.00** The Gamekeeper's Tale (7971715) **3.30-4.00** *Two's Country (6961715)*

UK GOLD
7.00am The Chronicles of Narnia (5110574) **7.30** Neighbours (5133609) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (8761425) **8.30** EastEnders (8760796) **9.00** The Bill (8751048) **9.30** The Sullivans (2591609) **10.00** Bergerac (5128593) **11.00** Dallas (5148357) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (8764512) **12.30pm** Neighbours (2595425) **1.00** EastEnders (5119845) **1.30** The Bill (2594796) **2.00** The Sullivans (83448338) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (6717864) **3.00** Everybody's Equal (7940845) **3.30** Eldorado (6830845) **4.00** Casualty (19265661) **5.05** Every Second Counts (4143864) **5.45** Are You Being Served? (9670661) **6.25** EastEnders (8958574) **7.00** Eldorado (7965154) **7.30** The Upchat Line (6849593) **8.00** Morecambe and Wise (4969951) **9.00** Widows (51701883) **10.05** The Bill (6001406) **10.40** Classic Sport (5627609) **11.40** The Young Ones (4361777) **12.20am** Dr Who (2386817) **12.50** FILM: Arnold's Wrecking Company (71505487) **2.00** Shopping (7740891)

TCC
7.00am Casper (10406) **7.30** Ready or Not (22241) **8.00** Valley High (28390) **8.30** Casper (3948116) **8.45** Dinobabies (3976999) **9.00** Tiny TCC (863512) **12.00** Tiny TCC (954864) **3.00pm** Sonic (9947) **3.30** Pink Panther (7999) **4.00** California Dreams (6406) **4.30-5.30** Valley High (5390)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Betfink (9497338) **7.05** Turtles (1832951) **7.45** Rugrats (424574) **8.15** The Ferals (531338) **8.45** Count Duckula (9797203) **9.00** Nick Junior (203116) **12.00** Lunchbox (92951) **12.30pm** Pee-Wee (32067) **1.00** The Ferals (82048) **1.30** Dungeons and Dragons (31338) **2.00** Denver (5406) **2.30** Galaxy (6628) **3.00** Count Duckula (7241) **3.30** The Legend of the North Wind (8845) **4.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (6280) **4.30** Rugrats (6864) **5.00** Clarissa (9086) **5.30** Aaagh! Real Monsters (7116) **6.00** Doug (7357) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (8609)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Untamed Africa (6281932) **5.00** Vanishing Worlds (7982067) **6.00** Invention (8977609) **6.35** Beyond 2000 (9340845) **7.30** On the Road Again (6847135) **8.00** Lonely Planet (4966593) **9.00** Wings Over the World (4986357) **10.00** Howlowe'en (8763883) **10.30** Howlowe'en (8749203) **11.00-12.00** Azimuth (5127864)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Jack the Ripper (Ouartette). With Boris Karloff (4509796) **2.00pm** The Saint (4580661) **3.00** The Adventures of Robin Hood (7968241) **3.30** Man from Interpol (6858241) **4.00** FILM: The Veil (7979357) **6.00** Danger Man (6854425) **6.30** The Wild Wild West (8728864) **7.30** Robin Hood (6834661) **8.00** The Saint (4960319) **9.00** Man in a Suitcase (4973883) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Hoffman (6298222)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (7942999) **7.00** Living Magazine (2968947) **9.00** More Front Gardens (4220280) **9.30** Kate and Allie (7689390) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (8946406) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (92122319) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8695135) **11.55** The Taste of Health (2761086) **12.30pm** Food and Drink (9692703) **1.05** Kilroy (6833680) **2.00** Agony Hour (6558703) **3.00** Living Magazine (6501661) **4.00** Infatuation UK (4777406) **4.30** Crosswits (6489883) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (75233135) **5.30** Bewitched (4780970) **6.00** Esther (4787883) **6.30** On the Bed with Paula (5132222) **7.05** Infatuation UK (5840154) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (9043203) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (8050203) **9.00** FILM: Criminal Behavior (8053390) **11.00-12.00** Dangerous Women (6368703)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm The Wonder Years (2574) **5.30** Adventures of Tintin (489393) **5.50** Batman (533864) **6.25** Catchphrase (150715) **7.00** Through the Keyhole (2338) **7.30** The Fall Guy (62574) **8.30** Home to Roost (9703) **9.00** The Ruth Rendell Mysteries (27512) **10.00** All Clued Up (39406) **10.30** Moonlighting (82932) **11.30** Batman (70390) **12.00** The Fall Guy (31568) **1.00pm** Zorro (74704) **1.30** Rhoda (17907) **2.00** Moonlighting (41636) **3.00** Rhoda (94568) **3.30** Zorro (66810) **4.00** The Wonder Years (54075) **4.30-5.00** The Black Stallion (95297)

MTV
6.30am The Grind (92512) **7.00** 3 from 1 (2000883) **7.15** Awake (6837628) **8.00** VJ Maria (135241) **11.00** Soul (17319) **12.00** Hits (68406) **1.00pm** Non-Stop (77154) **2.00** 3 from 1 (45770241) **2.15** Non-Stop (4811406) **3.00** Cinematic **3.15** Hanging Out (1101241) **4.00** News **4.15** Hanging Out (3738203) **4.30** Dial (4048) **5.00** Real World (4932) **5.30** The Pulse (8628) **6.00** Hanging Out (57390) **7.00** Hits (30086) **8.00** Most Wanted (43222) **9.30** Beavis (69135) **10.00** News **10.15** Cinematic **10.30** Oddities (40512) **11.00** Party (82883) **1.00am** Videos

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (9771390) **9.00** Café (7607715) **12.00** Heart and Soul (1062203) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (1071951) **2.00** Paul Jones (1652222) **3.00** Into the Music (4708390) **6.00** Adam Ant (1091715) **7.00** VH-1 for You (9390932) **8.00** Backtrack 1964 (6768203) **8.30** Planet Rock Profiles (6787338) **9.00** Adam Ant (8396116) **10.00** Vinyl (8398203) **11.00** Around and Around (9791154) **12.00** The Nightfly Rocks (4625452) **2.00am** Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE
Country music from **6am** to **7pm**

ZEE TV
7.00am Asian Morning (20964870) **8.30** Aap Ki Farmaish (49682777) **9.00** Hindi FILM: Saath Saath (57459628) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (49686593) **12.30pm** Zabaan Sambhal Ke (20022845) **1.00** Hindi FILM: Inteha Pyar Ke (24159883) **4.00** Manasi **4.30** Yaadon Ke Rang (28185203) **5.00** Zee Zone (69817999) **5.30** Hip Hip Hurray (54633816) **6.30** Zee and U **7.00** BBCD (69897135) **7.30** Namaste India (28186932) **8.00** News **8.30** Filmi Chakker (69885390) **9.00-12.00** Hindi FILM: Gunehon Ka Devta (64228609)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films.
9.00pm Shaft in Africa (1973) (23298203) **11.15 The Traveling Executioner** (1970) (69910406) **12.55 The Green Slime** (1969) (79614891) **2.40-5.00 The Trollenberg Terror** (1958) (87388723)

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BOXING 42
CAN A NEW BELT RESTORE FIGHT GAME'S CREDIBILITY?

SPORT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

ATHLETICS 46
CHRISTIE'S SON KEEPS RUNNING IN THE FAMILY

Crawley and Ramprakash enhance chances of Test selection

Smith fast running out of time

From Michael Henderson
in East London

THE battle to confirm batting places in the Test team intensified here on a wind-picked day, which England ended on 218 for four. John Crawley made 87 unbeaten runs and Mark Ramprakash supplied a bracing 70, but Robin Smith, who needs a decent score more than anybody, suffered a third-ball duck and will shortly have nowhere to hide.

When the touring party was selected, it was thought that Crawley and Ramprakash were competing for one spot, having shared it last summer. On form, each player is entitled to think that he will play in the first Test, if England decide to play six specialist batsmen. They are both in form and Smith, to whom England look for the big-match innings, is clearly not.

His first-class sequence on this tour reads 4, 0, 0.

His difficulty is amplified by the importance of giving Graham Thorpe some much-needed practice in the middle. Thorpe flew back to England yesterday to be with his wife, who lost their child in an ectopic pregnancy, and he will return to South Africa next week, in time to play at Kimberley. He needs to, for it will be his only first-class cricket before the Tests start.

Should Smith fail to make a significant score in the second innings here, he may be stymied because England, surely, will have to settle their batting order.

He was leg-before yesterday to Fourie, moving across his crease, not fully forward. After Crawley and Ramprakash had made 120 for the second wicket to make good the early loss of Stewart, it was not a wicket that England wanted to concede so readily. Smith looked a forlorn figure as he shuffled back to the pavilion, aware no doubt that he is not justifying the public declarations of support that Michael Atherton, the captain, feels obliged to provide.

Stewart, leading the team in place of Atherton, won the toss when play started after lunch. After driving a handsome straight boundary, he turned a ball off his hip to short mid-wicket to give Makhaya Ntini his first wicket in first-class cricket. Ntini, who has just turned 18, toured England earlier this year with the South Africa A team and ran in with great enthusiasm. He might have had Ramprakash on 11 when an edged drive squeezed between wicket-keeper and slip.

That was a rare blemish by Ramprakash, who settled quickly and was soon showing the bowlers the full face of the bat, executing his attacking strokes with a full swing. He is all confidence at the moment and went to his half-century in 63 balls, with eight boundaries. Crawley needed exactly twice as many to reach his fifty, though, as opener, he had determined to construct a different kind of innings.

Whereas Crawley opted for caution, Ramprakash was happy to challenge the bowlers. He took two strides down the pitch to meet Howell, the slow left-armer, and deposited him over the long-off boundary with the most splendid drive. There was power in the stroke and that power was all the better for being understated. He was batting so freely that a century seemed inevitable until he swatted Fourie to extra cover.

Smith followed in Fourie's next over, after which Hick announced himself with two vigorous pulls for four. He, too, could do with more time at the crease than he has spent so far and he was just venturing into open water when he cut at the medium pace of Cronje, the brother of the South Africa captain, and departed to a catch by Palframan, standing up to the stumps.

Crawley was not going to be budged so easily, and with Russell he saw England to the close. His innings has not been pretty, but he has demonstrated patience and, for the most part, a straightness of bat. He is not playing just for fun and, in the long term, his sober approach will surely bring its own reward.

☐ Craig White will miss the second one-day game of the England A tour, against a Pakistan Cricket Board XI, in Thatta today after fracturing his thumb while fielding in the opening fixture on Wednesday. White has been told to rest for ten days.

ENGLAND A (from): N Hussain, J Pooley, D Ostler, J Gallian, R Irani, A McGrath, K Piper, S Ucal, D Headley, E Giddins, R Stemp, M Smith

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND XI: First innings

J P Crawley not out	87
*A J Stewart c Kirsten b Ntini	11
M R Ramprakash c Cullinan b Fourie	70
R A Smith lbw b Fourie	0
G A Hick c Palframan b Cronje	16
†R C Russell not out 16	
Extras (lb 4, w 2, nb 10)	16
Total (4 wkts)	218

D G Cork, D Gough, M C Ilott, R K Illingworth and P J Martin

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-143, 3-145, 4-184

BOWLING: Fourie 16-6-30-2; Ntini 19-2-58-1; Botha 9-0-29-0, Emslie 5-0-31-0, Howell 8-0-33-0; Cronje 8-1-18-1, Pope 3-0-15-0; Strydom 1-1-0-0

BORDER: P J Botha, F J C Cronje, *P N Kirsten, D J Cullinan P C Strydom, S C Pope, †S J Palframan, I L Howell, B C Fourie P A N Emslie, M Ntini

Umpires: D Orchard and R Noble.

Crawley sweeps during his patient, unbeaten innings of 87 against Border in East London yesterday. Photograph: Graham Morris

Italian disdain rests uneasily with Rangers

By Kevin McCarra

ONLY once during the two European Cup Champions' League fixtures against Rangers did any member of the Juventus staff look cornered. After the 4-0 victory at Ibrox on Wednesday, Marcello Lippi, the Italian team's coach, attempted the impossible, trying to discuss the game without seeming to denigrate a Scottish team that had been crass as well as inept.

For all his diplomacy, the feat could not be pulled off. Lippi's true opinions broke cover when he was asked why Fabrizio Ravanelli, his potent forward, appeared only as a late substitute, and goalscorer, in Glasgow. The coach replied that his players needed periods of rest.

The answer demonstrated that Juventus do not give a game with Rangers their top-priority rating. There had been the usual rhetoric about the pride, passion and sheer noise which would confront Lippi's team at Ibrox, but he still viewed the trip to Scotland as a welcome lull in a schedule packed with more demanding occasions. Here was an evening for Ravanelli to unwind while his team-mates tightened the screw on Rangers.

The Scottish champions were not only beaten but — almost as painful — disregarded. In truth, Rangers were not overwhelmed to quite the extent that they had been when losing 4-1 in Turin a fortnight earlier and Juventus's margin of victory at Ibrox was inflated by two goals in the closing moments. However, the Italians felt no need to be quite as vehement as they had been on their own ground.

Rangers did lack several significant players, but Juventus also chose to dilute their strength. Ravanelli was not the only one of their leading figures to be excused his normal workload. Even those on the field throughout faced only light duties. Juventus quickly matched the initial aggression of Rangers and thereafter controlled the tempo.

Despite the modest speed of the game, however, Paul Gascoigne could not quite clamber on board. The Englishman may not deserve special blame, yet his ineffectiveness was the most damaging factor to Rangers.

In Gascoigne, a record signing at £4.3 million, the club had believed it at last possessed the kind of player who could civilise the traditional uncouth ways of Scottish teams.

No single individual could quite be up to that task, but the anxiety over Gascoigne's bafflement against alert Italian opposition may not be confined to his immediate employers at Ibrox.

Terry Venables had begun to consider the midfield player as the fulcrum of the England team he hopes to field in the European championship finals next year.

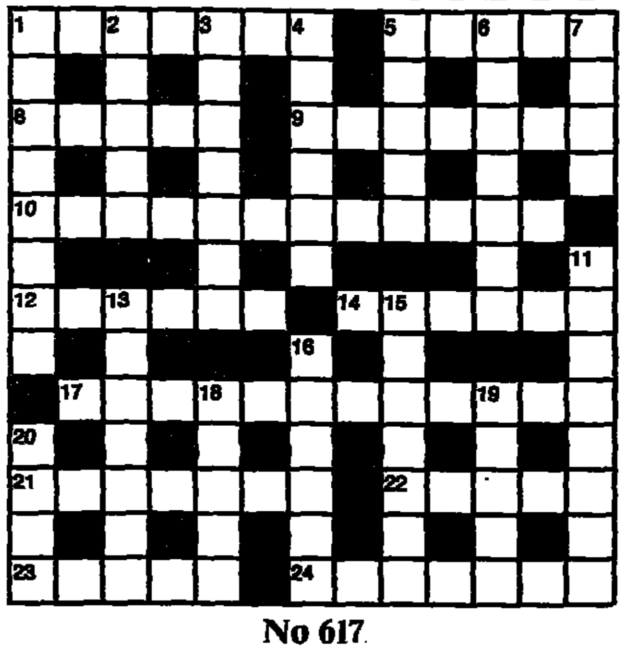
Now, the player seems to be drifting away from the standards demanded at such an event. Gascoigne may regard the defeat by Juventus as a bad night, but his play had been just as sketchy the previous week in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final defeat against Aberdeen.

During a television interview, he was to remark that he had given one of the two or three worst performances of his life in that game. How alarming, therefore, that he should once again be so abject only seven days later.

Gascoigne: ineffective

Curiously, after such embarrassment, Rangers' circumstances seem to retain a certain ambiguity. The club could qualify for the European Cup quarter-finals as runners-up in Champions' League group C, although victories at home to Steaua Bucharest and away to Borussia Dortmund would be required. Walter Smith, the manager, recognised that possibility briefly on Wednesday, but would not discuss the topic. He surely accepted that, for the moment at least, it would be impertinent even to imagine Rangers taking a prominent role in the European Cup.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 617

ACROSS
1 Given inappropriate role (7)
5 Equation with third power (5)
8 Snooker table cloth (5)
9 Shelved stand; thingumajig (7)
10 Rumpled state (12)
12 Picasso, Braque style (6)
14 Book size, sheet folded into eight (6)
17 Able to be recognised (12)
21 Reveals by unwrapping (7)
22 Lead weight; suffer (the worst) (5)
23 Muslim name of God (5)
24 Slim (7)

DOWN
1 Melville's whale (4-4)
2 Sort of roll, cheese, Guard (5)
3 Eternally young (7)
4 Urban sophisticate (derog.) (6)
5 Attraction; spell (5)
6 Sudden luck, wealth (7)
7 Animals: a musical (4)
11 Hood's hated month (8)
13 Torment, haunt (7)
15 Disable (7)
16 Fails to catch; girls (6)
18 Call like horse (5)
19 Jump; compelled (5)
20 Havana's island (4)

The solution to 616 will be published Wednesday, November 8

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FA to investigate failure in Europe

By Our Sports Staff

THE Football Association is to hold a meeting to investigate why English clubs have performed so poorly in European competitions this season; yet it believes that, at grassroots level, there is reason to be optimistic.

Terry Venables, the England coach, said: "Our aim has to be first to catch up and then to overtake rival nations as quickly as possible. It's important to monitor and pool all the experiences our clubs have had — good or bad."

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, said: "No one can dispute we have been underperforming in Europe in recent seasons and everything we can do to improve the situation we must do. We are already addressing the problems we believe exist at the grass roots. That process is continuing."

Managers of the six English clubs involved in European competition this season — Blackburn Rovers, Everton, Nottingham Forest, Leeds United, Liverpool and Manchester United — will be invited to the meeting. A joint invitation from Venables and Kelly will be sent in the next few days to the clubs concerned. The meeting is likely to be held within weeks.

It will be the second time that managers have met this season at the invitation of the FA, but the need for an urgent assessment of the performances of English teams in Europe has been heightened by events of recent weeks.

However, in a disappointing week for English teams in Europe, the FA has been heartened by impressive performances from its youth teams.

The England Under-16 team recently beat Belgium 1-0 away and Sweden 5-0 away, both in games to qualify for the final stages of the under-16 European championships, but there is particular concern about the development of players aged between 16 and 21.

Representatives of several football organisations including the FA, the FA Premier League, the Professional Footballers' Association and the Football League meet today at Lilleshall to discuss the subject.

The FA is also continuing with its search for a new technical director with the task of overseeing the future development of football. Candidates are being considered from both England and abroad.

Too little too late, page 44

Davies seizes place in rugby history

David Hands catches up with a player who is seeking a final flirtation with his first love

UNDER normal circumstances, no self-respecting sports club would trot out in their next premier league match a 33-year-old with a battered body who had not played the game for seven years and who had trained only once as part of the team. But then, these are not normal times and Jonathan Davies is no ordinary player.

Nor, though, is he the Messianic figure that Welsh rugby union would love him to be — not by his own account, anyway. He has not come home to Wales after his sojourn in northern climes with rugby league to take the international failures of the past seven years on to his shoulders, but to establish a career and have a final flirtation with his first love at Cardiff.

"It's a question of fitting in and trying to enjoy it," Davies said yesterday when he, club officials and sponsors were paraded for a voracious media. All the same, as the first significant transfer between the codes after the professionalisation of rugby union, his place in history is assured and Cardiff are making the most of it.

The Heineken League champions have moved tomorrow's home meeting with Aberavon to Sunday, to maximise the impact of the prodigal son's return — probably at full back. The match, which pits the joint leaders against the club third from the bottom of the first division, and would normally rate as a humdrum fixture, will be televised by BBC Wales in a specially-extended programme starting at 3.40pm and, if it is not a 14,200 sell-out, Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, will want to know why.

"I would have liked a bit more time before playing a game but there you are," Jonathan Davies said, the rueful, cheeky-chappy grin still there. "I have to justify my place in the side and that won't be easy. I hope the other players will help me along. I hope I won't try a play-the-ball in front of thousands of people. I might change my mind at the bottom of a ruck."

Cardiff have had to find around £70,000 in compensation for the player's former club, Warrington, and acknowledge the contribution of Peter Thomas, their own sponsor, and Chris Evans, a wealthy businessman — based in Aberavon as it happens — who sought involvement with a leading club.

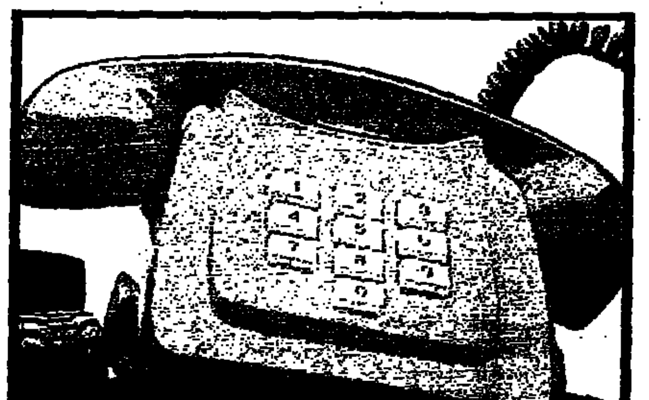
Cardiff also had to find career possibilities for Davies and Jewson, the building materials company, have provided that. Davies will work in an as-yet unspecified capacity for the company but probably as part of their sales force.

"This is the most public statement Cardiff have made about competing in the future," Gareth Davies said.

Jonathan Davies is there to fill the Arms Park club's ground as regularly as possible and inject enthusiasm for the game. He is also there as a mentor for young players who know little about the conduct of professional sport, and as a conduit for any other talented player who seeks to revert from league to union.

☐ Martin Bayfield, the England lock who plays for Northampton in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship, has turned down a £50,000 offer to join Harlequins.

Obituary, page 21



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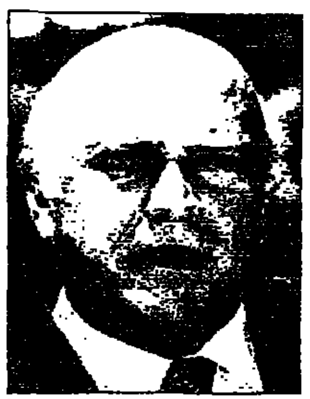
صكدا من الاهل

Accused Malan speaks of democracy's darkest hour

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN DURBAN

EMERGING from a courtroom to cries of "killers", General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, yesterday gave a warning that the country's fledgling democracy was heading for crisis after he and ten apartheid-era security chiefs were accused of murder and released on bail.

Appearing briefly at the Durban regional court, the men were fingerprinted and photographed before being ordered to hand over passports and to report weekly to local police until December 1.



De Klerk: will he be implicated by inquiry?

Then formal charges will be laid against General Malan, 65, and his co-accused relating to the 1987 massacre of 13 people, including five children under ten, gunned down in the Zululand village home of a well-known African National Congress supporter.

The charges have inflamed the passions of the white Right, who have accused the ANC of a vengeful witch-hunt. The political fallout has sent shudders through the Government of national unity.

The arrests were announced by the Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, at the weekend. Yesterday he said investigations would continue even if they implicated F.W. de Klerk, the former President and present Second Deputy President, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the Inkatha Freedom Party.

General Constand Viljoen, the right-wing Freedom Front leader who has praised President Mandela's reconciliation efforts, has threatened to quit parliament if an amnesty is not granted. This has been echoed by the National Party of Mr de Klerk, which has been involved in angry recriminations with the ANC, claiming the charges were brought forward to coincide with the first all-race local elections.

The trial threatens to reopen old racial wounds and yesterday's scenes may offer a taste of things to come. Demonstrating solidarity, former apartheid-era police and military chiefs, clad in matching blazers, packed the court and shook hands with the accused. Among the 27 "club of generals" were General Viljoen, Johann van der Merwe, a former Police Commissioner, and Adriaan Vlok, the former Law and Order Minister.

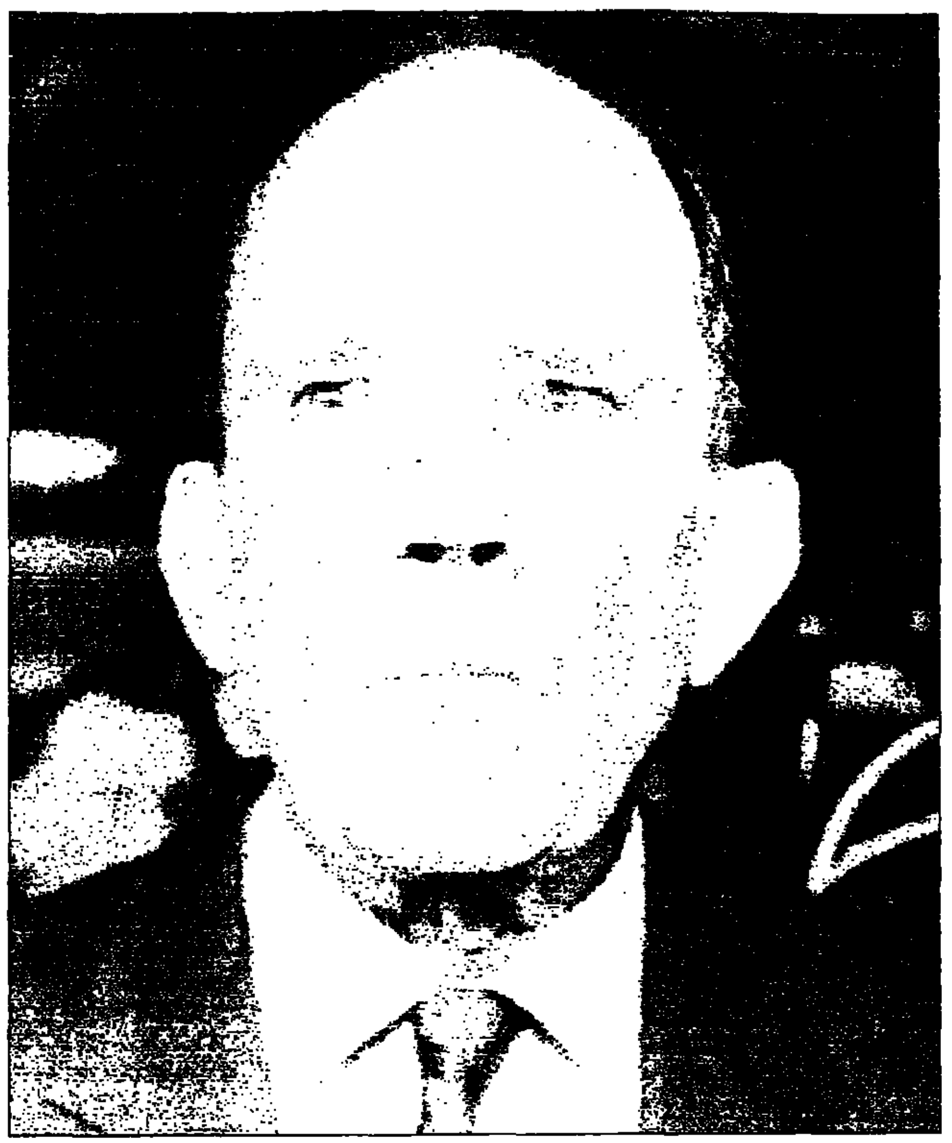
The Kwa Makhutha case, seemingly unresolved like so many from apartheid days, was resurrected last year when the Investigation Task Unit was appointed by the Government to probe allegations of hit squads operating in KwaZulu/Natal police.

The accused, who also include former heads of the defence force, army and military intelligence, have also been linked to the formation of a "third force" paramilitary group for the Inkatha Freedom Party, which instigated black-on-black violence to discredit the ANC. General Malan, Defence Minister between 1980 and 1991, was then one of the country's most powerful figures. To many blacks he is the quintessence of apartheid evil.

When the generals emerged from the court a group of blacks pointed and shouted: "Down with the killers of innocent children". As the riot police rushed forward to restrain the surging crowd, General Malan, raising his voice, declared that he was a moderate, a democrat and a Christian. He added: "What happened here today is the biggest crisis in the democracy of South Africa. Democracy in South Africa is now in its darkest hour ever."

Onlookers were unmoved. Ann Colvin, a white South African involved in the anti-apartheid cause, said: "I went to the trials of so-called freedom fighters during the apartheid years and to see the real perpetrators brought to book is great."

Mbusi Ntuli, 21, in exile when the massacre happened, lost his father and three sisters. Fighting back tears, he said: "Amnesty would be wrong. This is not a political case, it is criminal and they deserve harsh sentences."



General Malan leaving a Durban court yesterday where he and ten security chiefs were accused of killing 13 people in a massacre at Kwa Makutha

Poor poll turnout as ANC leads local race

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AS RESULTS of South Africa's first all-race local government elections trickled in yesterday, the African National Congress appeared to be heading for a repeat of its general election victory 18 months ago, but with significantly fewer votes.

Predictions that there would be massive voter apathy because of the Government's failure to deliver on promises were borne out, particularly in crime-ridden Johannesburg, where election officials said only 30 per cent of voters had gone to the polls. Elsewhere polls of up to 65 per cent were reported. In the general election in April last year there was an 86 per cent turnout.

Valli Moosa, Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development, claimed the ANC was heading for a "massive" victory. He said there had been a major shift of Coloured and Indian voters to the ANC.

Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, of the task group set up to organise the poll, said the election had been virtually violence-free and indicated a spirit of democratic tolerance.

Chalker says Nigeria faces ban from Commonwealth

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

IF THE death sentences on Ken Saro-Wiwa and others convicted in Nigeria are not commuted and there is no sign of a swifter return to democracy, the Commonwealth must consider suspending Nigeria, Baroness Chalker of Wallasey, the Overseas Development Minister, said yesterday.

However she said the Commonwealth leaders meeting in Auckland may not want to take this step without more evidence, including monitoring human rights. Any action against Nigeria had to be balanced by consideration of democracy and human rights in all Commonwealth countries, she said.

Lady Chalker, who will represent Britain instead of Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said that London was doing everything it could to get the death sentences commuted. She said that achieving reform in a country as complex as Nigeria was difficult, but the three-year timetable for a return to democracy proposed by General Sani Abacha, the military leader, was "clearly too long".

The graduated measures on dealing with rogue states, which will be discussed at Auckland, had to be realistic. There was no point threatening penalties that could not be carried out.

It was important that African countries, some of which she said were as worried as Britain over human rights abuses, also speak out. "There are a number of African Presidents who have said you can respect human rights even if you don't have homes."

Lady Chalker said she hoped that President Mandela would use his enormous moral authority to persuade Nigeria and other countries, such as The Gambia and Kenya, where human rights are under threat, to carry out democratic reforms swiftly.

She said that the issue of nuclear bomb tests was certain to be raised, but Britain would point out that it, along with France and America, was committed to a comprehensive test ban.

Letters, page 19

Mengistu buys up Zimbabwe homes

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

THE former Ethiopian dictator, Mengistu Haile Mariam, living in exile in Zimbabwe at considerable cost to that country's taxpayers, has begun a property investment spree, it was confirmed yesterday.

Deeds office records show that in July and August Colonel Mengistu — known as "the Butcher of Addis Ababa" and on trial in absentia in Ethiopia for genocide — paid nearly £190,000 for two properties in affluent areas of the capital. The transactions were in the name of his son, Andenet, who is 19 and an undergraduate at the University of Zimbabwe.

About £80,000 on the Harare market easily secures a large modern home in a couple of acres with a pool and tennis court. Real estate sources say Colonel Mengistu has put out the word that he is in the market for more "reasonably priced" properties.

Since May 1991 when he fled Ethiopia shortly before it fell to rebel armies he has been living in a state villa in the Gunhill diplomatic enclave. In six months last year he ran up a near-£20,000 telephone bill, using 40 per cent of the communication services budget at the Ministry of Construction, which had to bear the cost.

Befekadu Kamisso, First Secretary at the Ethiopian Embassy, was not surprised to see the colonel had large cash reserves. "We believe he has much more than this. He just robbed from Ethiopia."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Philippines ravaged by typhoon

Manila: One person was killed and 20 injured by the fringes of a 155mph typhoon with destroyed 15,000 homes in the Philippines yesterday.

The cyclone was expected to hit Manila, the capital, today after 60,000 people were forced to flee their homes by 5ft floods which knocked out power in provincial towns and cities.

"The winds are so powerful that people in tall buildings here feel they are being hit by an earthquake," Severo Alcantara, Governor of Catanduanes island, said. *(Reuter)*

Workers shot

Karachi: Gunmen rounded up and shot dead 15 migrant workers here in what could be revenge for the police killing of three militants of the Mohajir National Movement the previous day. *(Reuter)*

China talks fail

Peking: China and Britain ended talks over Hong Kong's future with Peking repeating a threat to overturn the territory's Bill of Rights and British officials cautioning against rash moves. *(Reuter)*

Boy kills teacher

Moscow: A boy, 12, killed his teacher and her daughter, seven, with a hammer in the Volga River town of Togliatti after he was found trying to change his marks in the class ledger, a newspaper said. *(AP)*

Beatles attacked

Nicosia: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Iranian spiritual leader, in a Tehran radio speech aimed at the nation's youth, equated the Beatles with the nihilism that he said undermined Western society.

Form guide

Hong Kong: The High Court here, responding to a drug trafficker's petition, ruled that removing the horse racing sections from prisoners' newspapers violates their human rights. *(Reuter)*

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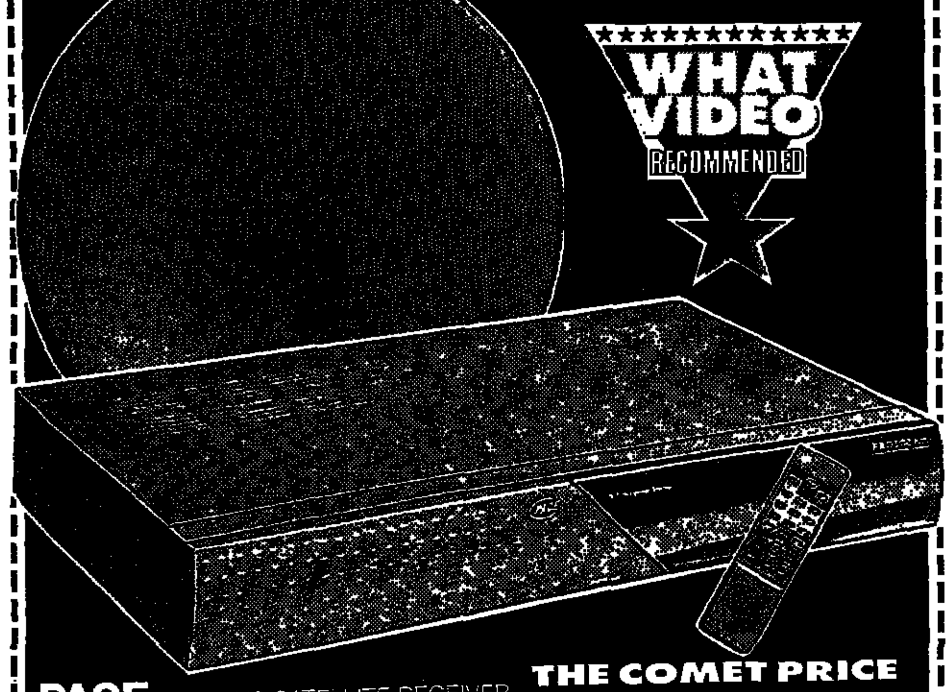

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£70 million compensation deal for tribal federation receives royal signature today

Maori land protesters denounce the Queen

By Michael Munro in Wellington and Our Foreign Staff

The Queen, wearing a Maori cloak made of kiwi feathers, receives the challenge of Mita Mohi MBE on arrival at the Maori arts institute

MAORI protesters yesterday chanted "the Queen go home" as she urged New Zealanders to work together to heal racial divisions and mend past injustices.

The Queen was whisked past about 70 Maori demonstrators, some brandishing placards denouncing her as an "imperial parasite", when she visited a Maori arts and crafts institute. Police outnumbered the protesters by three to one as the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at the institute at Rotorua in central North Island.

She was met by signs reading "Give our land back", a reference to land taken from Maoris in breach of the 1840 Treaty of Waitangi between their warrior ancestors and the Crown. Hundreds of claims are still outstanding for the return of Maori lands confiscated in breach of the treaty, although the Queen said advances had been made since her last visit in 1990.

"You have made substantial progress since then, with even so much remaining to be done," she said later at an opening ceremony for New Zealand's refurbished parliament buildings in Wellington. "I hope all New Zealanders will consider the size and nature of the task before you — a task that calls for patience, tolerance, perseverance and a will to succeed."

At the institute, the Queen was greeted by men in traditional warrior dress and watched Maori craftsmen at work and saw exhibitions of flax weaving and wood-carving. The Queen entered the institute building to encounter a friendlier face of Maoridom.

Racial tensions in New Zealand stem from long-standing Maori claims that guarantees made under the treaty have not been honoured, and royal visitors are often the target of Maori protests. Most Maoris respect the Queen and see her as a guarantor of their people's rights under the 1840 treaty, by which they accepted British sovereignty in exchange for free possession of their lands. Some see the monarchy as having betrayed Maoris. Today at Government House in Wellington the Queen will sign legislation which seals a £70 million compensation package for the Tainui federation of tribes, which had vast areas of land confiscated by British colonists. She will announce the return of 39,000 acres of land, an isolated success for the Government in clearing the backlog. However, a Maori request for the Queen to make a personal apology while in New Zealand was rejected by New Zealand's Government.

Robert Rhodes James, page 18

FACTFILE

☐ Population: One in eleven New Zealanders is Maori and almost four-fifths of these are urban dwellers. These Polynesian people are increasingly intermarrying with New Zealanders of European origin.

☐ Economy: A disproportionately large number of Maoris have poorly paid, low-status jobs. This is due to continuing educational deficiencies, despite the setting up of the Maori Education Foundation in 1961.

☐ Culture: Although there has been some revival of the teaching of the Maori language, such formal cultural indicators of Maoriness are becoming less and less significant. The Maori greeting, however, the pressing together of noses, is still practised.

☐ Government: Maoris have taken an active part in New Zealand politics since the mid-19th century, when Maori members first entered parliament. Four out of the total of 95 seats in the New Zealand Parliament are reserved for Maoris.

☐ Hardship: Maoris figure disproportionately highly in statistics such as prison numbers and unemployment. They are also struggling to get public recognition of rights based on their understanding of the country's founding treaty.

McCORMICK/MEPL

Maori chiefs recognise British sovereignty over their land by signing the Treaty of Waitangi on May 21, 1840

Seeds of dispute sown in treaty to protect rights

By Michael Munro

THE Maoris, the indigenous people of New Zealand, have been trying for 150 years to settle injustices suffered after they became part of British imperial expansion.

The Treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand's foundation document, was signed on May 21, 1840, by Captain William Hobson, who represented the British Crown, and more than 500 tribal chiefs.

Under the treaty, Maori interests were supposedly protected. However, separate and differing English and Maori-language versions have long made the apparent agreement a source of confusion. In return for signing away the sovereignty of the country, the Maoris — they call themselves the *tangata whenua* (the people of the land) — wanted some rights. They had, after all, arrived in the islands about 800 years before the Europeans.

> ‘Separate versions have long made Waitangi a source of confusion’

The treaty gave the British Crown the exclusive right to buy Maori land. In return Maoris were guaranteed full rights of ownership of their lands, fisheries and other "prized possessions". The parties had differing expectations of the powers they had and argument has raged ever since.

New Zealand's human history is shrouded in pre-literate time, but contemporary historians agree that Maoris, a people of East Polynesian origin, probably arrived in the 10th or 11th century. The ancestors of these people are believed to have left South-East Asia between 5,000 and 7,000 years ago.

In New Zealand the Maoris developed one of the world's most sophisticated Neolithic cultures, using ample supplies of suitable stone to make axes, chisels and drill points.

They excelled at wood-carving, crafting fish-hooks and needles out of bone, making weapons and ornaments from a type of jade called greenstone, and weaving with flax.

They had a vast number of gods, a series of myths and legends to account for the existence of New Zealand, and a belief in the afterlife. Life was organised around food growing and gathering and warfare, and there was ritual cannibalism.

On contact with Europeans in the 18th century, Maoris developed an enthusiasm for trade and the selling of land, although misunderstandings over what had taken place in some land transactions often had tragic consequences.

The coming of the Europeans also gave the Maoris access to firearms, which they used to devastating effect when settling old scores in a series of inter-tribal battles that became known as the Musket Wars.

However, the Europeans also brought sicknesses. Epidemics of influenza, smallpox, cholera, typhoid and venereal disease contributed to a 40 per cent reduction in the Maori population in the first half of last century.

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صحيح من الاصل

US holds Nato 'job interviews' with Lubbers favourite

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

RUUD LUBBERS is the Clinton Administration's "heavy favourite" to be Nato's new Secretary-General, but American officials yesterday expressed irritation that Britain, France and Germany had all declared their support for the former Dutch Prime Minister before reaching a private consensus with the US.

The Administration has taken the highly unusual step of summoning both Mr Lubbers and his sole rival, Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the former Danish Prime Minister, to Washington this week for what Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, pointedly labelled "job interviews". Officials said this was partly a measure of the great importance the Administration attaches to the post, but also to make the point that America, which contributes the bulk of Nato's military strength, did not appreciate being pre-empted by its allies.

John Major and Jacques Chirac, the French President, made clear their support for Mr Lubbers after their Chequers meeting on Monday. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, added his backing on Tuesday. Prior consultation with the US "would have been helpful", said one Administration source, adding that Washington had "felt the hot breath of other members of the alliance who were out in front".

Mr Lubbers had lunch with Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, in Washington yesterday and was also meeting Tony Lake, the President's National Security Adviser, and John White, the Deputy Defence Secretary who was standing in for the absent William Perry.

Mr Elleman-Jensen will see the same trio today, but Administration sources said the US was all ready to endorse Mr Lubbers unless yesterday's interviews threw up some unforeseen problem.

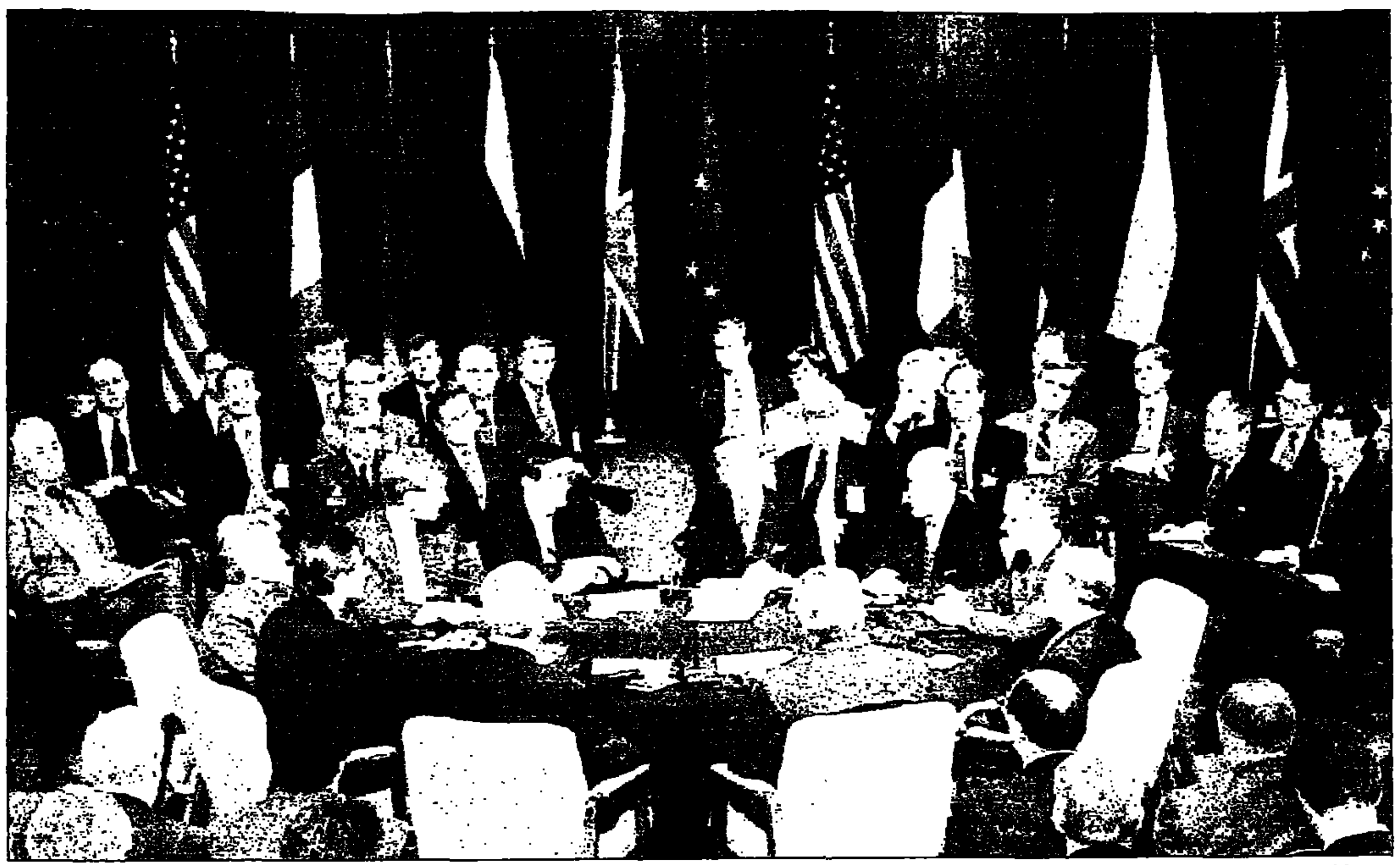
The Administration was distressed by last month's resignation of Willy Claes over a domestic bribery scandal in Belgium, and is understandably taking what Mr McCurry called a "very active interest" in who succeeds him.

Despite fierce congressional opposition, Mr Clinton may soon have to take the considerable political risk of ordering American troops to Bosnia as part of a Nato operation to enforce a peace settlement. The delicate but pressing question of how to expand Nato eastwards without provoking Russia has yet to be resolved.

Neither Mr Lubbers nor Mr Elleman-Jensen was America's original top choice to replace Mr Claes. Officials said that, had he not swiftly taken himself out of the running, Douglas Hurd, the former British Foreign Secretary, would have had the Administration's overwhelming support.

There was also a strong early lobby in some parts of the Administration for Hans van den Broek, the Dutch European Union Commissioner, but he failed to make the final list.

Lubbers: has one last hurdle to take post



As all sides gathered around the Balkans peace table, Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, told negotiators: "This will be a long journey, but it all starts here." Seated around the table are, clockwise from the top: Mr Christopher, Igor Ivanov, the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Wolfgang Ischinger representing Germany, Presidents Izetbegovic of Bosnia, Tudjman of Croatia, Milosevic of Serbia, Jacques Blot for France, Pauline Neville-Jones for Britain, Carl Bildt representing the European Union, and Richard Holbrooke, the US Assistant Secretary of State. During the first session of the peace summit, President Izetbegovic pressed the issue of Serb war crimes and urged that those suspects already charged be handed over to international authorities, said a source close to the talks. "Izetbegovic said he wanted to see Milosevic commit himself to see these war crimes stopped," the source added. President Milosevic represents separatist Bosnian Serb interests at the summit in the Hope Hotel in Dayton, Ohio, where warring Balkan factions are meeting on the Wright-Patterson air force base in an American-led effort to end Europe's worst war in 50 years. Mr Christopher said after initial talks that the Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian Presidents had hardened some positions and "there are vast differences" between them. He added, however, "I found some reason to hope ... a willingness to negotiate ... we got off to a good start". Negotiators reached a symbolic breakthrough on the issue of returning territory held by rebel Serbs in Croatia. *(Reuter)*

Leaders survey the 'long journey' to Bosnia deal

☐ Peace roses: Mothers of dead and maimed children took roses to the American Embassy in Sarajevo to underline their plea for success at peace talks in Ohio. "We suffer too much," said a woman who had lost two children in the war. *(AP)*

Bonn seeks to avert currency drift

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

PUBLIC opinion in Germany has swung even more strongly against European monetary union, according to the latest public opinion poll.

About 66 per cent of Germans are firmly against the replacement of the German mark by a single European currency, according to the IPOS opinion sampling institute. That compared with 60 per cent in June. Support for EMU shrank from 34 per cent in June to 27 per cent this autumn.

The findings reinforce the broadly accepted view that the 1998 German general election — and Helmut Kohl's future — will hinge largely on the monetary union issue.

New informal political coalitions are being shaped across the party landscape. Count Otto Lambsdorff, economics spokesman of the Free Democrats, the junior government partner, yesterday called for a supplementary treaty to the Maastricht accord to ensure that financial discipline is maintained after the entry date. Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, the Social Democrats' Europe expert, agreed: "Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, and Helmut Kohl failed to ensure in negotiating the Maastricht treaty that the stability criteria would be permanently anchored for members of the European monetary union."

This adds up to considerable political pressure on the Chancellor to work out a post-entry scheme, probably involving sanctions for those straying from the line.

Leading article, page 19

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Forever shaken not stirred

Giles Whittell, a fan of Bond movies, has a sneak preview of the new 007 in action in the latest film, *GoldenEye*

There is a satisfying moment in *GoldenEye*, the forthcoming and long-awaited Bond film, in which 007 is driven to a secret meeting by a female former Soviet fighter pilot called Xenia Onatop. On arrival, he squints pensively toward the camera for an instant before delivering a sharp karate chop to the back of Xenia's neck. Her head falls forward. For all we know, she is dead.

The chop is hardly an endorsement of violence against women since it follows a Jacuzzi scene in which our hero narrowly escapes being crushed to death between Ms Onatop's thighs. But it is a gratuitous chop, performed with chilling heartlessness: a piece of true Bondian sadism that Ian Fleming himself might have scripted. Hence the element of satisfaction.

MGM, the studio distributing *GoldenEye*, can rest easy for the time being. Following in Timothy Dalton's unsteady footsteps, Pierce Brosnan acquits himself with style and authenticity as the fifth Bond in 33 years. Existing fans of the genre will troop loyally to the cinema because he is Bond, and they will be pleased to see him slip easily into what remains of the role. Several million others, mostly women, will pay to see him because he is Pierce Brosnan, known from the television series *Remington Steele* for his fine bone structure and general suavity.

In short, the longest-running series in film history will not die with *GoldenEye*. But neither will it last much longer without a decent script: the new Bond is much better than the film he inhabits.

A glossy men's magazine suggested recently that 007 has become "a man with a motivation problem". This allusion to the end of the Cold War and its attendant villains makes no sense, of course. Britain still has plenty of spies and the world plenty of rascals on whom Bond films could be based if they were meant to be realistic spy adventures. But they are not.

There have been 17 Bond films so far — more than all the *Rocky*, Indiana Jones and *Batman* movies combined. They have been released every couple of years since Pierce Brosnan was nine and have thrived, above all, as realisations of wild adolescent fantasies about sex, gadgetry, invincibility and what it means to be British — ingredients never more brilliantly combined than in the opening sequence of *The Spy Who Loved Me*. Roger Moore manages to seduce a Russian spy on a bearskin rug, read an encoded telex over her shoulder as it emerges from his watch, gun down his pursuers with machine-gun ski sticks as he skis backwards over a towering precipice, and float to safety beneath a parachute emblazoned with the Union Jack.

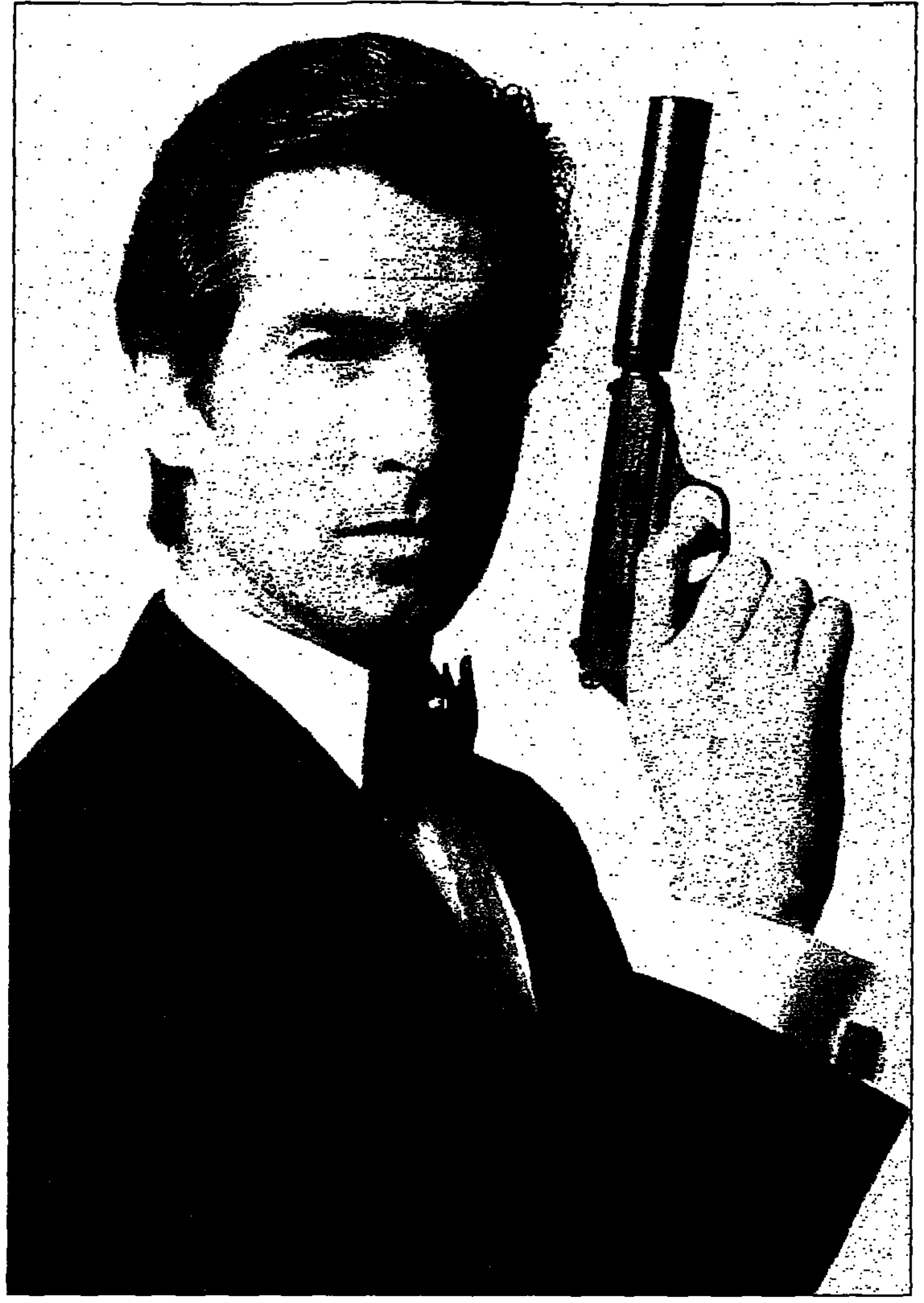
Such acts are hard to follow. *GoldenEye* does its best, but offers up precious few new fantasies. Instead, it nearly sinks under a self-conscious attempt to satisfy Bond bores and politically correct revisionists. This is not so much a new Bond adventure as bits of all the old ones updated for the Nineties.

> 'It is a fantasy about sex, gadgets and being British'

The silver-grey Aston Martin DB6 that was 007's pride and joy in *Casino Royale* makes a welcome reappearance — but as a collector's item rather than a state-of-the-art speed machine. It also has a fax above the gear stick. Bond is still a womaniser, but is continually upbraided for it in incongruous modern jargon. Miss Moneypenny warns she could sue him for sexual harassment, and "M" berates him for being "a sexist, misogynist dinosaur" whose "boyish charms" are "wasted on me".

As the dialogue suggests, M still gives the orders at Universal Exports, but in deference to Stella Rimington she is played by Judy Dench. Out in the field, Bond's patriotism is put to work protecting something called the Eurocopter from the Russians, whose operatives are no longer KGB agents, of course, but former KGB agents-turned-gangsters. Even Bond's colleague, 006, puts in an appearance, though to reveal what he becomes would be unsporting.

Some unmodernised aspects of the formula seem not just old, but old hat. The imagination of the villain-in-chief still fails to extend beyond stealing top-secret weapons. He still means to control them from a vast subtropical, subterranean hideaway, and is still alerted to Bond's arrival with a claxon that sounds like a donkey. The finale could almost have been put together with out-takes from *Moonraker* and *For Your Eyes Only*.



ALPHA

Pierce Brosnan's Bond is still a womaniser, but is reproached for being "a sexist, misogynist dinosaur"

In the six years since *Licence To Kill*, the one component of the Bond edifice to have evolved satisfactorily appears to be the man himself. Embodied by Brosnan, Bond *has* learnt to bungee-jump and swotted up on regional accents in former Soviet republics. But he has preserved the essence of Fleming's original creation, who in the words of one of his greatest admirers, the late Sir Kingsley Amis, was "handsome, elegant, brave, tough, at ease in expensive surroundings, predatory and yet chivalrous in sexual dealings, with a touch of Byronic melancholy and remoteness thrown in".

All Brosnan needs to do next time, apart from insisting on a script worthy of Fleming's own originality, is lighten up a bit. There is little to laugh at in *GoldenEye*, yet it was with humour that the unfairly maligned Roger Moore shepherded Bond through seven lucrative films. It is not quite enough to know that Ms Onatop ended up, metaphorically speaking, on the bottom.

Magnus Linklater on the value of the Lords

The landed interest

The ermine has been ruffled, the coronet knocked askew by this week's rude television assault on the integrity of the House of Lords. Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme purported to reveal the seedier side of their lordships' conduct. It suggested that one or two of them were on the make or, perhaps, prepared to accept consultancy fees to lobby for vested interests without disclosing the matter.

Dispatches came up with one peer who failed to observe the rule that peers must declare an interest in the course of a parliamentary speech. Lord Wade of Chorlton, who spoke up for more incinerators to dispose of waste, failed to mention in his speech that he had been chairman of an organisation which represented a company called the Energy from Waste Association.

> They simply know more than anyone else

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, on the other hand, made no secret at all of his interest. He had proposed 56 amendments to the Environment Bill, all aimed at reducing controls on the waste disposal industry, while being paid a retainer by the Association of Waste Disposal Contractors. He mentioned it in his speech with a cheerful grin, though he did not actually disclose the amount — £5,000. The fact that both cases involved waste gave *Dispatches* several opportunities to show footage of dirt being shovelled on municipal dumps, thus suitably reinforcing the message of sleaze.

All in all, the charges were less than devastating, but it was the fact that they could be made at all that hurt. After all, the whole *raison d'ètre* of the House of Lords hangs on its reputation as a place free of the taint of venality. While the House of Commons may have to wrestle with the Nolan recommendations, the Lords relies on a code of honour which goes to the heart of its constitutional role.

The Lords do have their own version of Nolan — the recommendations of Lord Griffiths, which propose a register of financial interests and an agreement not to use parliamentary influence on behalf of lobbying companies. But there is a dilemma here: the strength of the House of Lords lies in the fact that its members represent nobody but themselves. They are in a sense an assembly of vested interests. Unelected, its only virtue is its ability to draw on an eclectic range of knowledge which has no parallel in the other House.

When a landowning peer from the North of Scotland ventures down to Westminster to speak about forestry, he may well be accused of a conflict of interest since he probably owns several thousand acres of trees. But he is also speaking with a first-hand knowledge which is likely to be denied an MP from Penge.

The Earl of Glasgow, who runs a country park in Ayrshire, often gets up to speak about tourism. But in keeping with a long tradition in the Lords, he declares the interest in the course of his speech. "Naturally I'm biased on the subject," he says, "but you do tend to be biased on the things you know about."

Lord Elgin, who used to sit on the boards of several companies, said that since the House of Lords is a fairly intimate club, most people know perfectly well which interests their fellow peers represent. He said it was a matter of honour to refer to those interests in any speech from the floor: "If you didn't it was very soon spotted."

Viscount Thurso, who was introduced to the House just this week, recalled that his father, who owned one of the best salmon rivers in Scotland, once scribbled an amendment to a Salmon Bill which sought to prevent Canadian salmon being introduced to Scottish rivers. He did so on the back of an envelope in the course of a debate, simply because he happened to know more about the subject than anyone else. "There was no secret about the fact that he owned a salmon river," said his son, "and he declared it. But that didn't mean that the points he was making were any less valid." They were eventually incorporated into the Bill.

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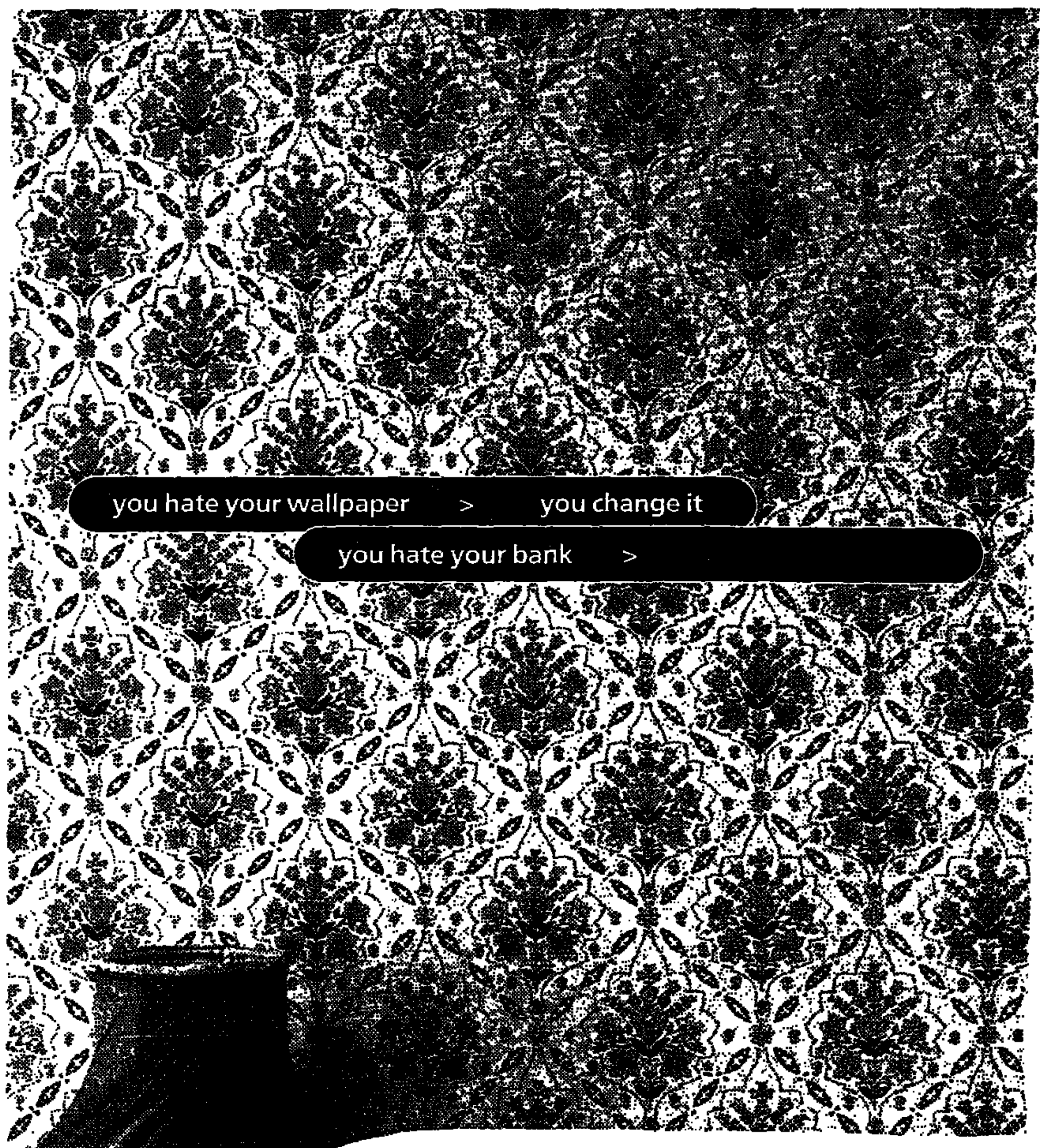

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The celebrated beauty and author who ran away from three marriages and survived the brunt of Amis's gibes

'I had to bolt from Kingsley or become an awful person'

"I must not pretend," Sir Kingsley Amis once said to me, "that I did not fall in love with my second wife." He quoted Billie Holliday's song: *"Love can make you drink and gamble. Love can make you dance all night long. Love can make you do things that you know to be wrong . . ."*

To be candid: Elizabeth Jane Howard's final novel in her absorbing Cazalet tetralogy, *Casting Off*, might not have excited such interest had it not coincided with the death of her former husband. It is a real moment of casting-off for Jane who, ever a lady, is afflicted by *de mortuis*. "I just feel very sad about it," she says quietly in her deep voice. "Martin rang me, very upset, and told me." She knew Kingsley was ill, so it was not a total shock. She "absolutely understood" not being invited to the funeral; but will attend the memorial service.

THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW

After enduring years of "half-truths, withholdings and downright lies", she wrote to Amis's biographer, Eric Jacobs, correcting matters, but did not read his book. "I decided not to fight back at all. About anything. It doesn't change things, does it? What people think of me may hurt my feelings but it doesn't change how anything was. And how things were is a matter between Kingsley and me, a matter of truth. I don't have any rancorous need to get my own back."

At Lemmons, for instance: "Lots of friends had very good times there. He denied it, but they did." Lemmons was their 30-room house at Hadley Common, decorated courtesy of an ad campaign ("Very Kingsley Amis. Very Sanderson"), although few men could be less interested in wallpaper than Sir Kingsley. There, Jane seemed aloof from Amis's routines, preoccupied with keeping domestic order in the nine-acre garden and a house filled with his children, her mother, her brother, a painter friend and the stream of guests. Amis could write, unmoved by surroundings or possessions; he wanted only congenial company who followed his inviolable rituals, like being at the pub door just as the bolts were drawn back. Jane was left behind, "otherwise there would not have been any Sunday lunch".

"He wanted Lemmons far more than I did. I knew the family wouldn't like it, and I didn't get any work done." They moved to Gardnor House in Hampstead, where I last saw her, for her *Lover's Companion* anthology in 1978; she sat working at a patchwork quilt, beautiful but abstracted; "too awe-inspiring for friendship" as she describes one of her characters. She was, in fact, ill and low in spirits, "in the last throes of trying to make things better". Things were not better. Her husband, she realised, was not only no longer in love with her; he did not even like her. It was from this house that she bolted (her word) in 1980, to become the butt of his invincible and unforgiving malevolence.

Why not write her own memoirs? A celebrated beauty who bolted from three marriages, who takes credit for Martin Amis's transformation from "amusing layabout" into disciplined scholar, would have much of interest to tell. She demurs. "What are memoirs for? They have to be honest to be worth reading. Perhaps I could do it in the third person, and look objectively at one's youthful behaviour and mishaps."

Otherwise, we are left only with Amis's version, his conclusion that he should never have left his first wife, Hilly. His memoirs ended with a poem "to H" about how he found the ideal wife, and then "set about looking further".

When asked "Who reads your novels?" Miss Howard replies confidently: "Women — and educated men." Her Cazalet quartet, following the family's marriages, affairs and turmoils through 1937-47, is a scrupulously observed period piece drawn from the Howards' own life in Notting Hill with six household staff.

"My mother, who had to give up *dancing* on marriage, really had nothing to do. After lunch she lay on the sofa and read a novel until cocktail time." The governess arrived daily by Tube from her Stoke Newington bedsitter; they read Shakespeare aloud and spent whole weeks at art exhibitions. Jane studied drama with Eileen Thorndike, sister of Sybil, and dreamt of marrying John Gielgud until she got engaged at 19 to the naturalist, Peter Scott. The wartime marriage produced her only child, Nicola, now a grandmother of 51. "I left her [at three] in the care of her father because I had no money. I was not a good mother, but she's been awfully good about it."

After her "inexplicable" second marriage (to Jim Douglas-Henry) over which she draws a veil, Amis was the *coup de foudre*. She was running the Cheltenham Festival; he came to speak. They eloped to Spain and, as a couple, seemed the epitome of literary glamour. But they ended as dramatically as they had begun.

"There's no good or easy way of leaving someone. I thought if I went off to a health farm for a fortnight, as I occasionally did, he would get used to not having me there.

"I don't hold with bolting as a practice. But for me it was a way of not becoming a fairly awful person. If I'd stayed, either I would have had to take to drink, and join him, or try to be the kind of person who did not drink but coped while he did, and I didn't feel able to do that any more. I'd coped for a long time." Even his biographer cannot explain why drinking was such a matter of masculine challenge with him.

"I now know that you can't get a person to give anything up unless they want to. If they're ranged against it, and I think he was, it's impossible. One of the cruellest things is to be given such a strong constitution. I drank a frightening amount myself when young, but then I had jaundice very badly and after that it simply wasn't worthwhile to make yourself ill. That didn't happen to Kingsley: it might have given him a reason to stop. He had a tremendous constitution. He could work, whatever he felt like. He had to; it was a compulsive thing. I envy that passion. I still find writing the most frightening thing I do."

Her first bolthole was on a rat-run in Camden Town. Despite its nearness to the house Amis shared with Hilly and the Earl of Kilmarnock, they never met. But the dangers of walking at night in Camden eventually defeated her. She found instead, in Suffolk, this perfect house, with meadow, riverbank and half an island.

Here, in rural tranquillity with her spaniel Darcy, and friends next door, she works at a feverish pace: on novels, screenplays, gardening columns. She drives herself about in a Saab and has filled the house with colour and sunlight: bright yellow parlour with inglenook; terracotta drawing room; conservatory where she serves her sorrel and spinach soup and stubs out cigarettes in a 1937 Edward VIII ashtray.

Luxuriant white hair is coiled back from exquisitely chiselled features: her cerise sweater and black leggings say "I am mistress of myself".

"I feel, if you are able, it's up to you to cope. I like knowing I've always earned my own money. I wasn't left anything by my parents, and never took any alimony, though I don't blame women who do: there is strong pressure to be the kind of woman who men like because they need to be looked after. I've made my own life, and that pleases me."

But she has made "rather a hash" of love, she says. "You can't make love happen; it's a kind of gift, like faith. You can't reason yourself into it, or even make it more likely that you encounter it. It's considered indecent at my age to have any interest in love or sex; but I know women older than me who have lovers, and good luck to them. It's tough to have it taken for granted that nobody will be interested.

"The most important things in life cannot be taught; they have to be found out for yourself. But life is so organised that you get the hang of things just when you're on the way out. It seems frightfully unfair."

'Kingsley's tragedy was his ability to drink quite so much'

[redacted]

MICHAEL POWELL

Elizabeth Jane Howard: "You can't make love happen; it's a kind of gift, like faith. How things were is a matter between Kingsley and me"

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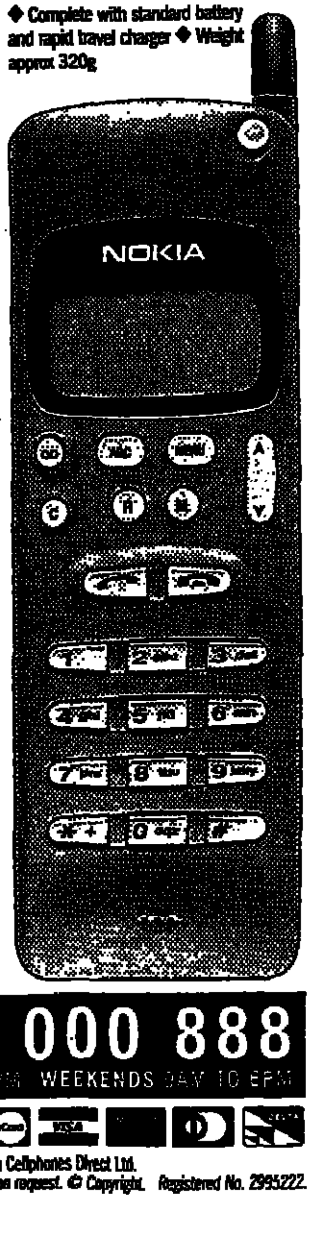

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Now that the sun has gone down

Robert Rhodes James on

Britain's proud imperial record

A shrill cry is currently to be heard from extremist separatist movements in some Commonwealth countries, including New Zealand, to the effect that the British should apologise, and preferably grovel and pay compensation for their past treatment of the natives and for our whole colonial past. This call should be firmly resisted.

No historian of the Empire can deny that there were dark episodes in the extraordinary saga of how a very small country with a small population discovered and colonised vast areas and enormous numbers of people throughout the world. Our forebears were not uniformly admirable or gentle, and many were cruel and ruthless, but remarkably, this amazing achievement was in the main bloodless. British rule and influence were significantly, and exceptionally, benevolent. The cruelty and exploitation were puny compared with the records of the Spaniards in Latin America, and Belgians in the Congo, the Portuguese and the Germans in Africa, the French in Algeria and Indo-China, or the Dutch in their possessions. The North American Indians fared much better in British Canada than in the United States.

> The Empire fostered a valuable sense of service

Every other empire in world history has disintegrated in bloody circumstances, and with enduring bitterness. The last chapters of the British Empire were, with some exceptions, totally different. Ironically, the greatest failure of all was in Ireland, so physically close but in almost every other respect so distant.

Britain's rule and contribution are now more than ever appreciated by serious historians and thoughtful people in the former colonies and dominions, where it is recognised that the arrival of the civilised British was the best thing that ever happened.

I had the advantage of being one of the last children of the British Empire. I was born and brought up in India, where my father served in the Indian Army, as did my brothers and uncle; my father lived there for 41 years, and considered independence inevitable and desirable, although as an officer in a mixed Muslim and Hindu regiment he lamented Partition. The astonishing thing about British India was that the numbers of British were so small. The vast Indian population could have obliterated us with ease. But even at the height of the "Quit India" campaign in 1943-44, my family felt no hostility.

My mother was once confronted by a menacing mob in Naini Tal. She asked the ringleader, whom she knew well, how much he was being paid to organise this spontaneous riot. "Ten rupees," he replied. She gave him 20 to call it off, which he promptly did. The real bloodshed was inter-communal, and the awful havoc when we left was far greater than any we had inflicted.

The cause of this harmony, which lasted nearly a century, was Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's Consort. The Indian Mutiny had been a terrible affair, which my maternal family had been fortunate to survive, and the cries for revenge were loud and intense. The Government of the day, responding to this, prepared a royal proclamation to establish a new and severe administration. The Queen, on Albert's urgings, rejected it, and he wrote that one "should breathe feelings of generosity, benevolence, and religious feeling, pointing out the privileges which the Indians will receive in being placed on an equality with the subjects of the British Crown, and the prosperity following on the train of civilisation". The Queen wrote of her "great satisfaction and pride" at feeling "in direct communication with that enormous Empire which is so bright a jewel in her Crown, and which she would wish to see happy, contented, and peaceful". These are not the sentiments of tyranny.

So began a pattern of royal attention to the Empire, and then the Commonwealth, which lasts to this day. Indeed Maori discontent has reached fever pitch only after enormous efforts have been made to right past wrongs. Last year, New Zealand's Government offered them a settlement worth almost £500 million.

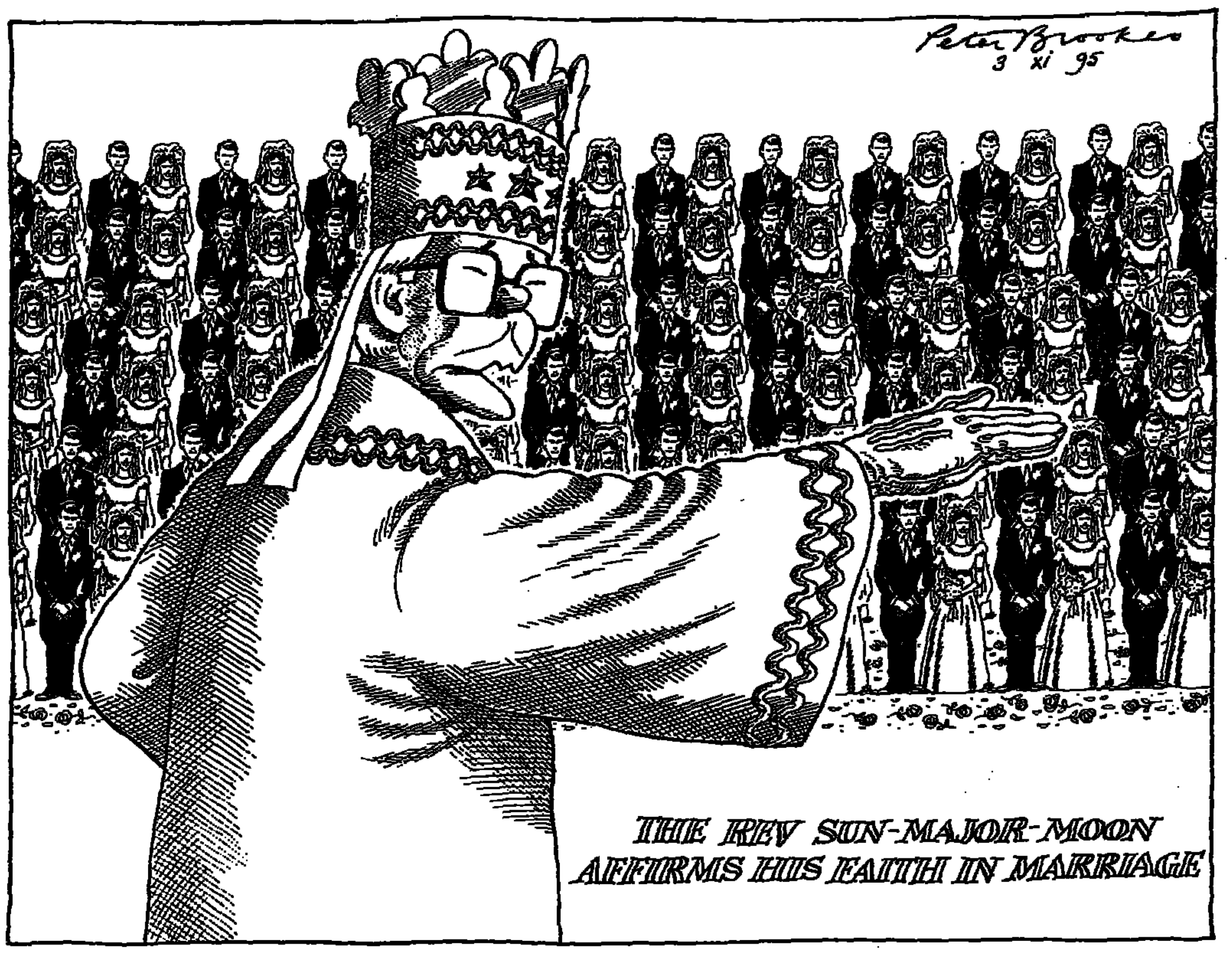
Queen Victoria's Indian famine fund appeal of 1887 raised the astonishing sum of £2 million — equivalent to at least £20 million today. King George V, on his first visit to India as Duke of York, was horrified to discover that Indians were still barred from clubs frequented by the British, and put an end to this apartheid.

King George VI never forgot his official visit, again as Duke of York, to New Zealand and Australia in 1927, and longed to return. Both he and his elder brother also had special feelings for Canada, and later for South Africa. The Queen in turn shares these affections, and modern transport has enabled her to be the most travelled and most knowledgeable of all British monarchs.

Despite its shortcomings, the Empire had a sense of service which inspired generations of colonial administrators, doctors, missionaries and teachers to work in adverse climates and often vile conditions for low pay and with the threat of early death. Blessedly, that tradition survives in British volunteers throughout the world.

If British colonialism had been as awful as some now say, hundreds of thousands of young men in the old Empire — including the gallant Maoris — would not have volunteered so enthusiastically to fight for the British cause in 1914 and 1939. The more one considers the record, the more one appreciates that "the gain hath the advantage, and the loss does not bear down the scale".

Sir Robert was MP for Cambridge 1976-92.



THE REV SUN-MAJOR-MOON AFFIRMS HIS FAITH IN MARRIAGE

What price a billion?

Money men who steal are one thing, but the incompetents are quite another

Bernard Levin

I would never make a criminal. For one thing, I would leave huge numbers of fingerprints all over the place, to say nothing of my spectacles, and for another thing, if I spotted one of my own books on a shelf in the sitting-room that I had come to rob, I would take it down, settle myself comfortably on the sofa and wonder why nobody was bringing me a pot of tea. But did you read about the real criminal (this is going to seem like an Irish joke, but the man actually *was* an Irishman) who phoned the police to tantalise them by giving them the address that he had burgled, and was still holding the receiver when the cops arrived at the phone-box?

With which I return to my infinite fascination with those great and wise figures, those captains of High Finance (oh, yes, the capital letters must remain), those mighty brains which can understand the most intricate and detailed matters of money while we poor mortals are groping in the fog to understand even the first word the great ones speak, those cool and smiling ones (the smiles denote that the smiler has just made a deal involving not millions but billions) who are the very figures who the following week are obliged to admit that they got a few noughts in the wrong place so that the great deal has vanished, leaving no trace except a red face and some mumbled apologies, while we little ones, ignorant from our heads to our feet in money matters, have got another half per cent on our modest savings, and are very pleased to get it.

Do you remember Queens Moat Houses? The chairman made a speech. I have it. "Growth, expansion and increased earnings are our clear philosophy, and we have two billion pounds of property on our books," he said, adding that at the next shareholders' meeting there would be £80 million of profit to share. Unfortunately, at the next shareholders' meeting it turned out that the company was £1.3 billion in debt, and the shares had been suspended. And no one in QMH was on the take; it was pure, unsullied, truthful, honest incompetence. (They came back later.)

As for IBM ...

But what about the crooked ones? Once when I was writing about honest old QMH and honest old IBM, I signed off with these somewhat prophetic words: "One of Germany's most powerful and distinguished business figures, a Herr Schneider, has disappeared, and so has some £3.2 billion from the Deutsche Bank. I rest my case."

But now I have to open my case again, because Herr Schneider has been found. Not in Germany, which would be *de trop*, but in Miami, a much pleasanter retirement spot. And he settled down so comfortably that he and his wife stayed for a year and a bit. Alas, someone who recognised him blew the whistle, and Herr Schneider is therefore awaiting extradition to Germany.

But he is not awaiting it quietly. According to Mr Henry Hamman of the *FT*, Herr Schneider, so far from exhibiting contrition, is spitting rage, and is denouncing the Deutsche Bank (I said that he had gone off with £3.2 billion, but the final tally was £5.2 billion) as scoundrels, oath-breakers, and — well, let him speak, or rather shout, himself:

> Economicallly, with regard to me and my wife, the bank criminalised me. They accused me of being a criminal . . . They involved the media and through an unjustified filing for a bankruptcy petition that totally destroyed the good reputation we had enjoyed . . .

And when he saw the bank's reaction to his "refinancing proposals":

> I knew there was no point in returning home because they basically destroyed my empire in a few days . . . I knew exactly how banks operate and that doesn't always mean business as usual . . . the banks knew where my liquid funds were located, but they had no quick direct access . . .

As for the Deutsche Bank, it said: "Mr Schneider's comments lie between the nonsensical and the outrageous".

And those who know me, will know that of course I am on Herr Schneider's side.

Yes, that is a shocking statement. After all, what if everybody started to cheer the crooks? Well, let me make my true confession. I would never admire or smile upon those whose depredations would or might touch the poor. My eyes go bright only when the really stinking billionaires are in question, and even they take the back seat when it is a matter of banks and such.

Banks and such: what a delightful phrase! Over the years, I have flown that flag — the flag, that is, of making fools of the banks and such. In those years, I have not just catalogued the imbecilities, but have taken it up as a hobby.

The clue is that the giant bloopers are always made from the top, and my studies in this recondite but important field show it. The truth is that when billions upon billions are on the table, they cease to be real, and even cease to be visible.

I lick my lips at a headline reading "Tokyo regulators knew of huge loss run up by Daiwa". For those even more ignorant than I am in these matters, I should say that "Daiwa" is not the name of some sweetie-pie who persuades a humble clerk to shift a few noughts so he can buy her a diamond necklace, but the name of the very bank in question.

But the first words of the story told it all: "The Japanese Government acknowledged on Monday that it knew of a $1.1 billion loss by a rogue trader at the Daiwa Bank six weeks before American regulators were informed." But it gets much better: "In that period the Japanese Ministry of Finance did not act on the information, nor did it inform their American counterparts, officials said. When the loss was finally announced, in late September, it rattled the world financial community and raised new questions about the solidity of the Japanese banking system."

But it gets funnier yet, because a Japanese Cabinet minister, Tomoharu Tazawara, who has somehow got himself into this murky business, is the Justice Minister, no less. Nor does the merriment end here: the whole business, it seems, pivots on something called a "secret deal"; Mr Tazawara called a press conference and said: "Swearing by my conscience, I have never done such a secret deal" — but immediately resigned.

Meanwhile, did *you* know that in the Japanese Parliament there is a party called the Clean Government Party, which is also mixed up with the now famous secret deal?

Yes, I have fun among the millions, but I don't just laugh and go home. Remember what I said earlier: "The truth is that when billions upon billions are on the table, they cease to be real, and even cease to be visible." Take the man who first spotted the Daiwa scam; what did he think as the truth rolled out in the Daiwa Bank's New York office? Consider: Toshihide Iguchi had been at his amazing task for 11 years, years in which he lost for the Daiwa Bank more than $1 *billion*, and forged no fewer than 30,000 documents to keep his giant scam afloat.

I deceived you: there was no "man who first spotted the Daiwa scam", because Mr Iguchi himself felt that it was time to confess, and confess he did. But if he hadn't confessed, he would presumably be doing the same thing until he died, and no one would have pointed out that there was a substantial hole in the accounts.

And please don't raise an eyebrow and wink, murmuring that the Japanese are a very different race. They are, but however different is their diet, the colour of their hair, and their quaint habit of sticking scimitars into their stomachs (and often other people's) they know the price of a loaf of bread.

But just like us, they don't know the price of a billion dollars. Just look at the similarities in what happened in the Daiwa Bank. A crook had embedded himself in the bank: that happens regularly in Britain. They try to hush it up; so do we. They fail to; ditto. They put up a sacrifice and boot him out; we do exactly the same. They lie as long as they can; oh, so do we! They say that their shareholders are in no danger, whereupon the shares immediately collapse; the very same.

You still deny? Well, then, how about the Prime Minister of France, M Juppé, who is now said to be rather bent, and the Secretary-General of Nato, M Claes, who seems to have been rather more so. Beat that.

Stop Press: Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister has been caught fiddling credit cards. Alas, we shall never see Gummer's hand in the till.

Philip Howard

Good story or good archaeology? Take your pick

So the Kensington Stone has bobbed to the surface again. You would think it was balsa or Styrofoam rather than tons of granite. Television and the more gullible newspapers, which like to take their stories neat from advance publicity for television programmes rather than spending time and ingenuity hunting for them, have astonished the world with tales of this old stone.

The Kensington rock has nothing to do with the chic royal borough. It comes from the muddier Kensington in Minnesota, and purports to show that Vikings reached the heartlands of America more than a century before the tourist Columbus. The stone was "discovered" by a Swedish immigrant farmer in the roots of a tree in 1898, with an inscription in rude Scandinavian runes and Latin alphabet asserting that it was carved by Vikings in 1362. Since then the petroglyph has become America's Stonehenge, a cult symbol of the ancientness of the white man in America and the importance of Scandinavian immigrants. It is visited by thousands every year. Minnesota displays a 22-ton granite replica in Runestone Memorial Park. A director of the Bureau of American Ethnology at the Smithsonian has declared it "the most important archaeological object yet found in North America".

And yet it has been proved to be a fake and a hoax over and over again. Glyn Daniel, the Cambridge Disney Professor (no relation) and the television star who made archaeology a popular science, must be chortling in the great dig in the sky. Every ten years he was called upon to demolish the Kensington Stone in *Antiquity*, even though three Scandinavian runic experts declared it "a crude fraud, perpetrated by a Swede with the aid of a chisel and a meagre knowledge of runic letters" as early as 1899. Since then archaeologists, geologists, philologists and runic dons have all closely demonstrated that it is a fake. One of the hoaxers even made a deathbed confession that it had been forged as "a hell of a good joke".

So the stone is an object from the lunatic fringe of archaeology, a monument to American/Scandinavian humour. But this does not stop professors bringing out books by suppressing their doubts. The public loves to see the experts embarrassed, is excited by this archetypal myth of finding a new world, and is always willing to plunge uncritically into the wilder vasts of archaeology.

Contemporaries such as Sam Johnson and David Hume recognised Ossian and his Gaelic poem *Fingal* as forgeries, but they could not prevent James Macpherson's hoax from having a huge influence on the Romantic movement. Ossian was compared to Homer by scholars on the make, and Gray was moved to write: "Imagination dwelt many hundred years ago in all her pomp on the cold and barren mountains of Scotland." Imagination certainly, Tom, but it dwelt only a few years ago in a garret in the New Town in Edinburgh. Stonehenge was piled up thousands of years before the Celts invaded Britain. But this does not discourage otherwise sane citizens from dressing up in white sheets as Druids and worshipping there on midsummer's eve.

We have moved to fresher missing links since Piltdown Man. But the Vinland Map, another in the museum of Scandinavian forgeries, still attracts support, though its ink was made after 1920. In spite of carbon-dating, pious fools still believe in the Turin Shroud. Richard of Cirencester's *Roman Britain* fooled the Royal Ordnance Survey into copying it, despite being a palpable crib made out of gobbets of Tacitus and Caesar and forged four centuries after Richard toiled in his scriptorium. The Vermeers forged by Hans van Meegeren fooled the susceptible and greedy art world, and even now fetch good prices at auction — though not as good as a true Vermeer would.

An important academic function is to shoot down lies and rebut fakes. This branch of *haute vulgarisation* takes patience, love of getting things shipshape and a tolerance of being thought a spoilsport. The world prefers its myths to its facts, and fairy-stories satisfy the soft part of human nature. Nevertheless, that Kensington Stone is a fake as old and crooked as a left-handed corkscrew with knobs on.

Chez Jay

BRITAIN is to have a new Ambassador in Paris. The present incumbent, Sir Christopher Mallaby, will be replaced by Michael Jay, 49, the lofty individual who steered John Major through the choppy waters of the Maastricht treaty.

His appointment has yet to be announced by the Foreign Office, where Jay is deputy under-secretary and director for the EU and economic affairs. But the selection of a chap with such a friendly disposition towards Europe can only serve to strengthen the new *entente cordiale* between John Major and Jacques Chirac.

"He's an egghead," said one mandarin. "Terribly bright. He has risen effortlessly to the top even though he looks as if he's walked straight from Planet Boffin."

Jay (Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford) is expected to assume his new mantle next year at the most splendid and costly foreign outpost, where Oscar Wilde, Proust and Liszt all dined.

His appointment has not been received well by Pauline Neville-Jones, the 55-year-old director of policy at the Foreign Office, who was tipped to become the first female ambassador to a major country. "She's been pipped to the post on this one," said a diplomat. "She's in a frightful bate."

● *Michael Winner was proving uncharacteristically camera-shy on Wednesday night at London's Belvedere Restaurant for the Charles Heidsieck champagne reception. "I brought my secretary to this party," he explained. "And I am worried people will say she is my girlfriend — which would really annoy my real girlfriend."*

Pauline: pipped for the post

Of a feather

THE QUEEN was introduced to a reclusive kiwi, the New Zealand national bird, yesterday in Rotorua. Her Majesty was attired in a ceremonial robe of kiwi feathers, as Kes the one-legged kiwi was held up for her inspection. "Kes did not seem pleased to see her," said an observer, "probably because she was wearing all those kiwi feathers. Kes had also been woken up to meet her, because kiwis are nocturnal, and he looked grumpy."

The kiwi, one-legged and grumpy as it may have been, came as light relief. Rotorua is famous for its geysers, but for long minutes even "old faithful" refused to perform. "Everyone was extremely relieved when they finally gurgled into action for the royal party."

Ladies, please

THE LONDON Labour Party has tied itself up in knots trying to select candidates for the general election for five constituencies in the capital. The hold-up seems to be Labour's insistence that one of the five constituencies must undertake to have an all-women shortlist. All of the constituencies are resisting any such imposition.

"It's proving to be a frightful problem," says one old hand. "And in addition there are rumours that the autocrats in Tony Blair's office are trying to find the Tory defector Alan Howarth a seat in London."

Nonsense, it's nothing to do with Howarth, replies the London Labour Party, which admits that all-women shortlists are far from popular in some quarters.

Lightweight

ON THE EVE of Sir Nicholas Lloyd's resignation from the Editor's chair at the *Daily Express* this week, his wife, Eve Pollard, was the talk of a Westminster party. The former editrix, whose voluptuous form has long been a remarkable sight on the cocktail circuit, is looking remarkably trim.

She denied suggestions of brutal diet and exercise regimes. "It's just that I don't have business lunches any more," she protested.

Cueing up

THE CONVIVIAL world of gentlemen's club snooker has been shaken by the appearance in smoky basements of the professional player. For the first time in its four-year existence, the Hine Clubs Snooker Championship has been wrested from the Royal Automobile Club by the Oriental Club. The victors were primed for the final showdown by Ray Reardon, the six-time world champion. "It couldn't have been closer, but Ray gave us that extra sharpness just to clinch victory," says a jubilant member of the Oriental. "It's not ungentlemanly to take tips from a pro."

"Relax, Ma'am, he's not Canadian"

Flag day

A RED flag is to fly once again over Tony Blair's local town hall. Despite Islington council's cash shortage, old-style socialists have demanded that the Labour Party should shell out for the ensign against the wishes of the new Labourites, to replace the one that mysteriously disappeared.

Council leader Alan Clinton insists that the purchase will not fall on council taxpayers, and the flag will not sport the hammer and sickle. But critics are not impressed. "They're playing silly games at the expense of the people of Islington," says Steve Hitchens of the Liberal Democrats. "It's amazing they can splash out on a new red flag when they are charging poor pensioners for attending day centres."

P·H·S

صكا : من الاجل

JUDICIAL MOONSHINE

Howard was right to refuse Moon entry to Britain

The withdrawal of the Rev Sun Myung Moon's application to enter the United Kingdom is a welcome end to a controversy which has caused embarrassment to judiciary and executive alike. On Wednesday, Mr Justice Sedley ruled that Michael Howard's decision to ban the leader of the Unification Church was "unlawful by reason of procedural unfairness". The Home Office fiercely disputed this. It would have been open to Mr Howard to appeal against this regrettable judgment. Thankfully, the issue has been resolved without further conflict between ministers and judges.

To most Britons, this row will have seemed utterly mysterious, an unnecessary argument about a problem to which the answer was clear. Mr Moon's activities have had a deplorable impact upon many families in this country, and his exclusion from these shores is both welcome and necessary. The greatest mystery is that he has previously been granted permission to enter Britain, in 1991 and 1992. It is hard to conceive of a less acceptable visitor.

What must now be asked is why such an apparently straightforward issue became the cause of a minor constitutional row. Mr Moon applied for leave to enter the country in Seoul on October 18, after which Mr Howard considered representations from MPs and members of the public. In this week's judgment, the Home Office was said to have given Mr Moon insufficient opportunity to state his case. "This is precisely the unpopular applicant for whom the safeguards of due process are most relevant to a society which acknowledges the rule of law," the court ruled. Yet the 1971 Immigration Act does not require the Government to seek representations from the applicant. Common sense, indeed, suggests that it is the task of the applicant to make such representations if they are likely to be necessary.

Common law dictates that the "right to be heard" depends upon the context. There will always be occasions where it is appropriate for the Home Office to make its own inquiries about an application in order to prevent manifest injustice. But this was not one of them. Mr Moon's global organisation should have realised that public outrage at his activities has grown in this country over the last few years as more has come to light about their effect upon families. The burden of proof has passed to their discredited leader. Rightly, and predictably, his application for a letter of consent was turned down.

As Labour has gleefully pointed out, this is not the first time that Mr Howard has come into conflict with the courts. Over parole applications, criminal injuries compensation, the Guinness Four, the Carl Bridgewater case and other issues, the Home Secretary has been criticised by judges. It is tempting to observe a pattern emerging, a potentially alarming hostility between an overmighty executive and an ambitious judiciary. In this case, however, it is more fruitful to ask who was right than to observe constitutional trends.

Mr Justice Sedley would seem to have made a mistake. But this quickly became irrelevant when Mr Moon cancelled his trip. Judicial review of administrative decisions has been a welcome evolutionary development in the unwritten constitution, a necessary check upon the centralisation of power and the growth of the royal prerogative. It does not follow that judges are always right and ministers are always wrong when such differences arise. The privilege of the Crown to exclude visitors who are likely to act against the common good is fundamental. Any attempt to restrict that privilege is unwelcome. Looking back on the success of judicial review, judges must be careful not to give a good idea a bad name.

MUDDLES AND MARKS

A belated German debate begins in earnest

Wolfgang Schäuble, the man most likely to succeed Helmut Kohl as Chancellor of Germany, visited Britain this week to issue a appeal for Britain to join Germany in driving forward European integration. Germany, in Herr Schäuble's description, should and will overcome its doubts about merging the mark into a single European currency.It was a peculiarly despairing appeal.

Herr Schäuble also hopes that Europe will then form a political union defended by "a European army". It will be an odd sort of army: no EU member state would be forced by majority vote to send soldiers to take part in common military operations.

This muddled design, however, looks almost clear when set against Herr Schäuble's impenetrable discussion, in his Konrad Adenauer lecture on Wednesday, of national sovereignty. In Herr Schäuble's view, no individual European state can "fulfil the classical requirements of sovereignty" but the nation state will nevertheless retain "its most central function".

This ambiguity is a symptom of doubt and unease inside the German political class. Herr Kohl is clear that he still wants to see Europe united: but he cannot be sure that the rest of the German political class truly shares his determination. Only a few years ago, the same Herr Schäuble was charged with being a "nationalist" — one of the worst crimes of which a German politician can be accused — when he hinted that Germany might pursue its national interests a little more vigorously.

What began as a low grumble of worry about monetary union from the Bundesbank and the Finance Ministry has now become a cacophony of complaint about the possible risks that Germany might run by joining a single currency too soon or on the wrong terms. An improbable alliance of Free Democrats, Social Democrats and CSU politicians think that the financial discipline rules written into the Maastricht treaty were not thorough enough and they want to add stiffeners to the document.

This apparently innocuous demand promises a fine political storm and may well prompt accusations of German economic bullying. The storms will grow worse as the election of 1998 approaches. "We Social Democrats have finally found a national issue," said the Social Democrat Gerhard Schroder last week, as one of his colleagues hinted that the single currency should be postponed past the 1999 deadline.

No German politician of consequence yet argues against the idea of monetary and political union in Europe; reservations are expressed about practice not principle. But the effective ban on open discussion of monetary union which Herr Kohl has imposed on the German political and financial establishment has now been subverted. Germany's politicians and pundits should go further: debate has been opened on a potentially momentous change and it should not be stopped.

At least two thirds of German voters oppose swapping marks for "euros" and an opinion poll yesterday suggested that the mood was becoming more hostile still. But two-thirds of Germans also support the Maastricht treaty, which committed Germany to giving up the mark. Clarifying argument has become a manifest political duty.

THE PRINCE'S CHOICE

But Shakespeare is good for common politicians too

As a nice short cut for loyal subjects, the Prince of Wales has today published his personal selection from Shakespeare. All the Bard's good bits now bear a royal seal: for the price of an hour's English prep at Gordonstoun you can read about the barge and Cleopatra, elegant whinges about their lot by several kings called Henry, and even a speech by Coriolanus which begins with the words "My wife comes foremost . . . ".

Will this volume of princely hits spark a trend of other such books. The Shakespeare of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern? "If it appears not plain and prove untrue, Deadly divorce step between me and you!" Shane Warne's? "He's a marvellous good neighbour, faith, and a very good bowler." Nick Leeson's favourite lines? "For honour, 'tis a derivative from me to mine." Or Salman Rushdie's? "I am bound To Persia and want guilders for my voyage . . . " — uhm, perhaps the last would be a comedy of terrors.

The truth, of course, is that there is something in Shakespeare for everyone, from "base foot-ball players" to "nature's bastards". But no band of men is better served by the vivid Bard than our modern politicians. Labour, Tories, lefties, greenies, nutters and elder statesmen, can all cut for themselves their slice of succulent Shakespeare text. And those who like their politicians in small doses — or not at all — have much to fuel their dislike of the tribe. They can echo Hotspur thus: "Why, look you, I am whipp'd and scourg'd with rods, Nettled, and stung with pismires, when I hear of this vile politician . . . "; or bark like Lear about "scurvy politicians" with glass eyes, who seem to see the things they do not.

The xenophobic tendency will claim Shakespeare as their own: indeed, they could compile a thicker volume than the Prince has done. " . . . your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander. — drink, ho! — are nothing to your English," said Iago, no less. And federalists may be berated for wanting to make of us "a Dutchman today, a Frenchman tomorrow, or in the shape of two countries at once, as a German from the waist downward, all slops, and a Spaniard from the hip upward, no doublet". Europhiles get less purchase from Shakespeare's copious text, although there is mention of Euriphile in *Cymbeline*.

Tony Blair (whose time, for a moment, was put out of joint by Clare Short) can throw this barb at his Conservative adversaries across the floor — taking care, of course, that his contempt does not fall foul of the Speaker: "A natural coward, without instinct — I deny your major." Naturally, the Prime Minister can be expected to throw Bard back. "It's monstrous labour . . . And it grows fouler." *The Prince's Choice* is gentler, of course, but Shakespeare was not always gentle about princes. "The prince is a Jack, a sneak-cup: 'sblood, an he were here, I would cudgel him like a dog," he wrote in the First Part of *Henry IV*. Hard words indeed, but Shakespeare was sometimes a pretty hard man.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Answering dissent on Tory party from within the ranks

From Sir Robert McCrindle

Sir, There is not much in the article by my erstwhile colleague Sir Julian Critchley ("Plight of the Tory men", October 28) with which I would disagree. I wonder, however if he is perhaps being a little too pessimistic in presuming that the Tory party is experiencing a death wish.

The divisions within the party have indeed been responsible for much of the Government's unpopularity. But is not the real challenge that, having achieved a degree of unity, we must ensure that the party remains close to the middle of the political spectrum?

The free market policies pursued by the Government in the Eighties and Nineties have brought many advantages to the country. But rather than accentuate this movement, perhaps the best service the Government could render to the thousands of disenchanted supporters would be an understanding of their deep concern over the security of their employment. This is especially true of the middle class, and total reliance on market forces causes much alarm.

Sir Julian, in my view, misses the most important factor in the quest for recovery of the party. After 16 years we have to find something new to say rather than just move to ever more extreme positions in a vain attempt to create clear blue water.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT McCRINDLE
(Conservative MP for Billericay, 1970-74, and for Brentwood and Ongar, 1974-92),
26 Ashburnham Gardens,
Upminster, Essex.

From Mr S. B. C. Evelegh

Sir, How can Sir Julian Critchley claim "the Conservative Party always plays it safe", when it selected Disraeli and Mrs Thatcher as its leader? Where lies the "seduction" in Mrs Thatcher — by Critchley's own admission already "a traditional rightwinger" — embracing right-wing economics?

And does not the dedicated service which the educated and upper classes (whom Critchley seems to regard as synonymous) gave throughout the Thatcher years suggest that their subsequent departure from the constituency associations owes more to the eclipse of her views, than to the alleged sniping of her loyal lieutenants, Lords Tebbit and Parkinson?

Yours faithfully,
SHAUN EVELEGH,
Cairnbrook,
Fairy Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight.
October 28.

From Mr Andrew Roberts

Sir, Sir Julian Critchley states that, in May 1940, "had it not been for Neville [Chamberlain's] disastrous conduct of the war, and the insistence of the Labour Party, Halifax would have been preferred to Churchill".

He is quite wrong. In fact, most senior Labour politicians, such as Herbert Morrison and Hugh Dalton, wanted Halifax rather than Churchill, and there is no *contemporaneous* record of any preferring Churchill, though plenty were wise after the event.

Neither was Halifax at the Foreign Office as closely identified with the conduct of the war as Churchill, who was First Lord of the Admiralty during the Norway campaign and had to defend the Government's policy against acrimonious Labour attacks in the debate which brought Chamberlain down.

It was Halifax's act of self-abnegation, realising that he would not be as inspiring a war leader, which gave Churchill the premiership. Surely it is time, 55 years after the event, especially when the facts are so well documented, that this ancient *canard* about Labour's involvement should be laid to rest.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW ROBERTS,
2 Tite Street, SW3.

From Sir John Stokes

Sir, I never knew Julian Critchley well when I was in the House of Commons, but always liked him — although he is certainly not my type of traditional Tory of the Church and Queen kind.

His criticism of the present Tory party might have some credence if he had not forgotten to mention Lord Cranborne, who is Lord Privy Seal, Leader of the Lords and a close friend of the Prime Minister. He is one of the wisest men in British politics today.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOKES
(Conservative MP for Oldbury and Halesowen, 1970-74, and Halesowen and Stourbridge, 1974-92),
4 The Bradburys, Stratton Audley,
Nr Bicester, Oxfordshire.
October 27.

Saro-Wiwa sentence

From Lord Williams of Mostyn and others

Sir, We are appalled to learn of the cruel sentence of death passed on Mr Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian writer, by a "special tribunal" set up to try him on a charge of murder (report, November 1, leading article, November 2).

We call upon the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative to examine the trial process which has already been described as "flawed" by the Foreign Office, and we roundly deplore the misuse of judicial machinery for the attainment of political ends, especially in the persecution of opponents of the establishment (whether military or civilian) that occurs in some parts of the Commonwealth.

We ask all heads of government meeting at the Commonwealth summit in New Zealand to call upon the Provisional Council of Nigeria to commute this sentence immediately.

And finally we urge the Home Secretary, in the light of this case, to rule out any possibility of Nigeria being declared a "safe" country when considering the merits of political asylum claimants (report, October 26).

Yours sincerely,
GARETH WILLIAMS
(President),
TARIQ RAFIQUE
(Chairman),
TOBY HOOPER
(Vice-Chairman),
Commonwealth & Ethnic Barristers Association,
30 Roland Way, SW7.
November 2.

Change of time

From Lord Howie of Troon

Sir, If Viscount Mountgarret believes (letter, October 25) that the House of Lords "accepted the principle" of his Bill to introduce Central European Time to Britain earlier this year, he is under a delusion.

His Bill, which was given its third reading in the Lords on February 20, was one of the most bizarre to come before the House for quite some time: it proposed to adopt Central European Time for England, Wales and Northern Ireland but not for Scotland. Even if CET were appropriate to the UK, which I do not believe, nothing could be dafter than having a time change at Gretna Green.

The Bill was not opposed in the Lords, as frequently occurs with absurd measures. Quite properly, it did not prosper in the Commons.

Yours sincerely,
WILL HOWIE,
34 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11.

Scout service

From Mr D. W. Hollier

Sir, Among his achievements Bishop Hugh Blackburne (obituary, October 20) should also be credited with the idea for the annual service for Queen's Scouts at Windsor Castle.

After taking part in a course at the Scout Association's training centre at Gilwell Park, Essex, he put the suggestion to his father (then a canon at St George's Chapel, Windsor). The first service for King's Scouts was held in 1934 when the salute was taken by King George V and the address was given by the Dean of Windsor (the Very Reverend Albert Baillie).

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLIER,
10 Church Lane,
Elsworth, Cambridgeshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Need to plant more coniferous trees

From Mr Thomas Compton

Sir, As a professional forester it was pleasing to read of a country where a well managed forest resource supports a robust forest industry and whose population appreciates the dynamics of sustainable forestry management ("Pulp friction solved", Focus on Finland, October 17).

Your article reminds us, however, that Finland is a major exporter while we are major importers of timber and timber products. Indeed, each of us in Britain consumes on average one cubic metre of coniferous wood every year, almost a whole year's production in Finland, whilst we only produce one tenth of that demand ourselves.

Due to significant planting in the 1960s our home-grown yields of timber are set to increase over the next twenty years to achieve self-sufficiency of about 25 per cent. There has also been massive investment in the wood-processing section, providing employment and adding value to this basic resource.

However, since the removal of tax incentives in 1988 (a knee-jerk response to "green" lobby pressure on coniferous planting in the Flow Country) the level of new planting has fallen by over a third: from 29,000 hectares in 1988 to 17,300 in 1994. As a result our self-sufficiency is now set to decline beyond the year 2020.

Bids to plant woodland within the designated new National Forest were approved last week, and the Government's aim is to see one third of a 200-square-mile swath of the Midlands planted by the millennium. This represents a major opportunity for us to invest in the timber supplies of the future.

We now need to plant at least 30,000 hectares of productive coniferous trees every year. Only then can we begin to be on top of things, as the Finns are now.

Yours sincerely,
T. COMPTON
(Forest Manager),
English Woodlands Ltd,
The Warren,
Crowborough, East Sussex.
November 1.

VCs' pensions

From Mr Ronald Clifton

Sir, The annuity of £100 paid to holders of the VC until recently was not fixed when the award was instituted, as Mr Bryan Coode believes (letter, October 30). According to Article 1235 of the Pay Warrant 1914, the annuity was then £10 but could be increased to £50 in cases of special hardship. It was not until 1959 that the award was increased to £100, for officers and men alike.

The Army estimates for 1914-15 give a list of 63 warrant officers, NCOs and men then in receipt of VC annuities, totalling £904 2s 4d. Most of the awards were of £10, including that to Piper George Findlater of the Gordon Highlanders (whose VC will be auctioned by Spink & Son next Tuesday), but a few were for larger sums, not exceeding £50. The annuity to Private William Jones of the 24th Foot, one of the Rorke's Drift VCs, was £30 4s 4d.

No such sums were paid out of Army funds to officers who were holders of the VC, although Mr Coode's letter indicates that Lieutenant Melvill did receive a pension from the Civil List. It was presumably a personal award by Queen Victoria.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD CLIFTON
(Historical Information Officer,
Western Front Association),
6 Clarendon Road,
Cambridge.
October 31.

From Mr J. G. K. Bell

Sir, I quote from the 1943 edition of *Whitaker's Almanack*:

> A special annuity of £10 a year is granted to every recipient [of the VC] below Commissioned Rank, with an additional £5 a year for every bar . . . In the event of an annuitant being unable to obtain a livelihood on leaving the Service, the amount of the annuity may be increased to £50.

No mention was made of annuities paid to commissioned ranks.

Yours faithfully,
J. G. K. BELL,
1 Westwood Gardens,
Barnes, SW13.
October 30.

Baku train blaze

From the Director General of the British Plastics Federation

Sir, PVC is not "highly flammable", as alleged in your report of October 30 on the tragic train disaster in Baku. The chlorine component of PVC gives it inherent ignition resistance; additionally it is self-extinguishing and will burn only in the presence of another fuel source. Its fire resistance is also governed by additional flame retardants which are used in it; these further reduce the risk of fire by a substantial amount.

Secondly, smoke from burning PVC is no more toxic than smoke from other combustion. As PVC is difficult to ignite and burns slowly, it gives off less toxic smoke than many other materials. Fire experts agree that the agent responsible for the incapacitation and death of the overwhelming majority of fire victims is carbon monoxide which is generated during the combustion of all materials.

It is extremely dangerous to cast a material with a proven record as unsafe since this could easily result in the use of unproven and inherently less safe materials.

Yours sincerely,
RON JONES, Director General,
The British Plastics Federation,
6 Bath Place, Rivington Street, EC2.
October 31.

Mobile-phone crime

From Mr Ian White

Sir, The government proposals to crack down on mobile-phone crime (news in brief, later editions, October 25) are unworkable. The statute books are already full of laws, such as the Computer Misuse Act, which have yet to be successfully prosecuted.

Given the length of time these latest proposals will take to become law they are likely to be of historical interest only, as the majority of phone users will be using clone-proof digital phones by 2000.

Many prosecutors are barely able to get to grips with the technical issues involved in currently prosecuting cases involving the receiving of stolen mobile phones. So what hope is there for any jury to grasp the technical nuances and deliver verdicts?

The chance of any phone cloner ever spending one year in jail, let alone five, is negligible. Changes in network software and the use of Pin codes in analogue phones are able to eliminate cloning now.

Yours sincerely,
IAN WHITE (Editor),
Mobile News,
134 Petherton Road, Highbury, N5.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 44

NHS funding for untried treatments

From Mr Alan Millard

Sir, Should the National Health Service provide the funding for experimental surgery (leading article, October 27)?

An example to support the case in favour concerns a ten-year-old child who, in 1953, was offered an experimental operation on a benign brain tumour which, because of its size and location, was not at that time amenable to conventional surgery. The untried procedure, which involved aspiration rather than removal, was attempted for the very first time at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. The funding was provided by the NHS immediately and without question.

I am pleased to report that this letter, written 42 years later by the fortunate recipient, is evidence of the operation's success.

My hope is that Jaymee Bowen, and others like her, will be writing similar letters to *The Times* in 42 years from now.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MILLARD,
8 Medina Court,
Marine Parade West,
Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.
November 1.

From Mr John B. Quayle, FRCS

Sir, In the brave new cost-efficient healthcare world it is probable that, without media attention, cases such as "Child B" will find the struggle to obtain treatment even harder. After 25 years of practice I have found, like many surgeons, that the occasional patient who survives from apparently "incurable" cancer with radical treatment that might have been withheld by objective and detached arbiters, becomes one of a small band of highly exceptional cases attending review clinics.

Disproportionately and incidentally, they provide an immense uplift to the sagging morale of the clinician faced with patients with advanced malignancy. We all aim to practise evidence-based medicine but, laudable though that emphasis should be, it is worth reminding ourselves, perhaps more often than we do, that the history of medicine is littered with examples of the folly of certitude where "evidence" and received opinion are ultimately found to be flawed.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN QUAYLE,
The River House, Isle Lane,
Bicton, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
November 1.

Darkness at noon

From Mr Richard Coleman

Sir, Your leader ("Darkness at noon", October 25) credits the Athenians who fought at Syracuse with long memories for eclipses. There was indeed a solar eclipse in Attica in 431 BC, but it was the lunar eclipse of August 27, 413 BC, which so alarmed the Greeks and preceded the Sicilian disaster.

Nikias the commander, so Thucydides tell us, was "over-inclined to divination", and agreed to delay the planned evacuation.

Your leader suggests that the soldiers "refused to set off for battle". Perhaps, like most troops, they only did what they were told.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD COLEMAN,
52 Falstaff Avenue,
Earley, Reading, Berkshire.
October 25.

From Mr Eric Strachan

Sir, There may have been a solar eclipse on August 3, 431 BC, observable by Athenians. If there was, then there could not have been a lunar eclipse three weeks later: surely it takes only a little more than two weeks for the Moon to complete her half-circuit of the Earth?

Yours faithfully,
ERIC STRACHAN,
49 Sigdon Road, Dalston, E8.
October 25.

Nelson's servant

From Captain D. G. Roome, RN

Sir, Thomas Allen was Nelson's batman (report, October 31)? Never.

Steward or seaman, yes. The term batman is unknown at sea, and meaningless as its origin denotes a man in charge of a pack-horse.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ROOME,
East Hall,
Boughton Monchelsea,
Maidstone, Kent.
October 31.

Unhappy returns

From Mrs Nicky Phillips

Sir, I have just come back from a fruitless shopping trip to our nearest town. All I wanted was a card to mark the occasion of my godson's imminent confirmation. Not one of five card shops had a card for either confirmation or first communion.

I *could* have had a card to celebrate divorce, one for two unmarrieds setting up house, or indeed, one to wish happiness with a new dog.

Yours faithfully,
NICKY PHILLIPS,
16 Burns Green,
Benington, Hertfordshire.
November 1.

COURT CIRCULAR

GOVERNMENT HOUSE
WELLINGTON
November 2: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Maori Arts and Crafts Institute, Rotorua, and were received by the Hon Paul East MP (Minister in Attendance) and Mr John Marsh (Director).

Her Majesty, accompanied by His Royal Highness, this afternoon opened the refurbished Parliament Buildings in Wellington and was received by the Rt Hon James Bolger MP (Prime Minister) and the Hon Peter Tapsell MP (Speaker of the Parliament).

The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, afterwards attended a Reception in the Grand Hall, during which Her Majesty was graciously pleased to address the Members of Parliament.

The Rt Hon James Bolger MP (Prime Minister) was received in audience by The Queen this evening.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended The Duke of Edinburgh's Award New Zealand Dinner at Wellington Parkroyal Hotel.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 2: The Princess Royal, President, International League for the Protection of Horses, this morning attended a Seminar at Tattersalls, Newmarket, Suffolk.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, SENSE — the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association, this afternoon attended a Fund-raising Luncheon for the East Region at Peterborough Moat House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this evening attended a Foundation Day at the Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1.

Mrs Charles Ritchie was in attendance.

CLARENCE HOUSE
November 2: Colonel John Clemence today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Honorary Colonel, The London Scottish Regiment, upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Colonel.

Colonel Richard Holliday also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Regimental Colonel of The London Scottish Regiment.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 2: The Prince of Wales received Lieutenant Commander Andrew Raggett on his departure from The Royal Flight (32 Squadron).

His Royal Highness, President, Royal Shakespeare Company, this afternoon chaired the Annual Governors' meeting at the Other Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Shakespeare Centre, Headquarters of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

His Royal Highness, Patron, the National Trust Centenary Appeal, later visited Charlecote Park, Charlecote, Warwickshire.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 2: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this evening at a Dinner in aid of the Society, held at the Viceroy of India Restaurant, Glentworth Street, London, NW1.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 2: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, St Peter's Research Trust, this evening attended a Reception to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Trust at St James's Palace.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 2: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, the Samaritans, this morning launched The One Number, St Stephen's Church, Walbrook, London, EC4.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
November 2: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this afternoon visited Dundee and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Dundee (Mr Norman McGowan, the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, President of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, attended a Luncheon at Bonar Hall, University of Dundee, and subsequently opened the Sir Angus Ogilvy Research Unit at Ninewells Hospital and Medical School.

The Princess Alexandra later visited the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Shop, 31b Victoria Mall, the Wellgate, Dundee.

The Lady Mary Mumford was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Edward V, Westminster Abbey, 1470; Karl Baedeker, guidebook publisher, Essen, Germany, 1801; André Malraux, writer and politician, Paris, 1901.

DEATHS: Felix Bartholdy, composer, Leipzig, 1847; Annie Oakley, American rifle markswoman, 1926; Henri Matisse, painter, Nice, 1954; Guy Lombardo, band leader, Houston, 1977.

The town of Abruzzi in Italy was destroyed by an earthquake which killed about 15,000 people, 1706.

Anglo-Brazilian Society

Earl St Aldwyn, Chairman of the Anglo-Brazilian Society, was the host at the Charity Ball held last night at Grosvenor House in aid of children's charities in Brazil. The Brazilian Ambassador, Senhor Rubens Antonio Barbosa and Senhora Barbosa, and Senhor Renato Paulo de Souza, Minister for Education, and Senhora de Souza, who are visiting from Brazil, were present.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize winners were announced yesterday:

£100,000: 46KZ 278089, winner has a holding of £5,070 and comes from Gwent: 25SL 596012, £6,000, Cheshire.

£50,000: 28LK 709010, £15,475, Mid Glamorgan; 19SF 117096, £260, Avon; 14ZB 508643, £800, West Yorkshire.

£25,000: 46KZ 995719, £2,500, Kent; 23KS 721974, £10, Wiltshire; 47ML 081744, £19,965, Avon; 2HK 167959, £1,600, Grampian.

Reception

Royal College of Defence Studies
Air Marshal Sir Timothy and Lady Garden, with Members of the Royal College of Defence Studies, received the guests at a reception held last night at Seaford House, Belgravia, for ambassadors, defence advisers,service chiefs and friends of the college.

At Home

Lady Mayoress

The Lady Mayoress was at home at the Mansion House yesterday to members of the Court of Aldermen, Court of Common Council, representatives of the Church, City and Civic Organisations, the Judiciary and City Livery Companies and their ladies.

Memorial services

Sir John Ackroyd
King Husain of Jordan was represented by the Jordanian Chargé d'Affaires at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Ackroyd held yesterday at St Michael's, Cornhill. The Rev David Burton Evans officiated and Miss Sarah Bullen read the lesson.

Mr Edward Fox read Robert Browning's *Epilogue to Asolando*. Miss Dorothy Tutin read Leigh Hunt's *Abou Ben Adhem* and Mr Peter O'Toole read an extract from Axel Munthe's *The Story of San Michele*. Mr John Inman paid a personal tribute and the Rev Sidney Evans gave an address.

Mr Nicholas King, organ, Vice-Director of the Royal College of Music, played before the service and Mr Andrew Haveron, violin scholar of the college, played Bach's *Gavotte from Partita No 3* during the service. Among others present were:

Lady Ackroyd (widow), Sir Timothy Ackroyd and Mr Andrew Ackroyd (sons), Mr and Mrs David Annesley and Mr Fabrice Marion and Miss Jane Ackroyd (sons-in-law and daughters), Orlane Marion (granddaughter), Mr and Mrs Christopher Ackroyd (brother and sister-in-law), Mr Marcus Ackroyd, Mr and Mrs Clive Whittaker and other members of the family.

Earl Spencer, Sir Harold and Lady Walker, the Hon Sandy and Mrs Younger, the Hon Mrs Luke Asquith, the Hon Tarquin and Mrs Olivier, the Hon Mrs R Cavendish, Sir Euan and Lady Bowater, Sir Richard Kleinwort, Lady Hodson, Sir Thomas Lucas, Lady Lever, Sir Brian Jenkins, Sir Desmond and Lady Heap, Mr Jonathan and the Hon Mrs Balcon, Mr Beverley Cross and Dame Maggie Smith.

Miss Joanna David, Mrs Sidney Evans, Mr Peter Vey, Mrs Paul Scofield, Mr and Mrs Martin Bishop, Mr and Mrs Paul Bishop, Mrs Elizabeth Bishop, Miss Clare Bishop, Mr James Bishop, Mr Robbie MacNab, Mr James Clarke, Mr John Denison, Mr and Mrs A Pitt-Rivers, Dr R M Griffin, Mr Alex Baillie-Hamilton, Mr David Nickerson, Ms Kim Herbert-Jones, Mr and Mrs Charlie Petre, M and Mme Roger Marion, Ms H Bates, Mr Simon Williams, Miss Chloe Milton-Hicks.

Mr John Gardiner, Mr Barry Reed, Mr and Mrs Anthony Temple, QC, Mrs M Barrett, Mr Anthony Wood, Mr Bruce Douglas-Hamilton, Mr Oliver Lodge, Mr and Mrs Cyril Horsford, Mr Nick Evelegh, Mr Richard Baker, Mr and Mrs K Bentley, Mr and Mrs George Playfair, Brigadier Dennis Fuller, Mrs J Stafford-Smith, Mr John Young, Mrs Michael Swindells, Ms Georgina Swindells, Mr and Mrs Hugh Bean, Mr and Mrs Allan Stewart, Mrs Sue Warburton, Mr Miles Huntington-Whiteley.

The Master and the Beadle of the Carpenters' Company, Dr Janet Ritterman (director, Royal College of Music) with Mr Leopold de Rothschild and Miss Hermione Oliver; Mr Stanley Dutton (chairman, The Dystonia Society) with Mr Alan Leng (executive director), Mrs J Mason, and Mrs Cherry Howard (chairman, Solent Group) and Colonel John Howard; Mr Peter Denton (clerk to the council and company secretary, Zoological Society of London), Mr Brian Lidstone (director, London and International School of Acting) and Mrs Lidstone with students from the school, Mr Bruce Williams (Old Bradfieldians Society) and many other friends.

Sir Charles Irving
The Prime Minister was represented by Mr John Ward, MP, and the Speaker was present at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Charles Irving, former MP and consultant on public affairs, held yesterday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey. Canon Donald Gray officiated, assisted by the Rev Neil Collings, who led the prayers. Mr David Lane and the Dean of St Paul's read the lessons. Dame Janet Fookes, MP, gave an address. Councillor the Rev Jeremy Whales was robed and in the Sacrarium.

Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, and Sir Denis Thatcher, the High Sheriff of Gloucestershire, the Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council, the Leader of the Conservative Group on the Council and the Chief Executive with other councillors attended.

The Chairman of the Conservative Party was represented by Sir Graham Bright, MP. Among others present were:

Mrs David Lane, Mrs Sybil Preece, Mr David Oldham, Mr Peter Shephard, Mr Tony Hilder, Dr John B Irving, Dr M A Irving; Viscount Boyd of Merton, Mavis Viscountess Dunrossil, Lord Ampthill, Lord Blaker, Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Lord Finsberg, Lord Grey of Naunton, Lord Henderson of Brompton, Lord Mackay of Ardbrecknish, Baroness Masham of Ilton, Lord and Lady Murton of Lindisfarne, Lord Parkinson, Lord Plumb, MEP, Lord Shaw of Northstead, Lord Weatherill, Lady Williams of Elvel.

Mr Paul Channon, MP, Sir John Cope, MP, Mr Alastair Goodlad, MP, Mr David Hunt, MP, Sir Peter Lloyd, MP, Sir Patrick Mayhew (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland), Mr Michael Morris (Chairman of Ways and Means and Deputy Speaker), Sir Cranley Onslow, MP, Sir Nicholas Scott, MP, Sir George Young (Secretary of State for Transport), Sir Edward du Cann, the Hon Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, MP, Sir Patrick Cormack, MP, Sir Douglas Dodds-Parker, Sir Reginald Eyre, Sir Anthony Grant, MP, Sir John Hunt, MP, Sir David Knox, MP, Sir Kenneth Lewis, Sir Michael Neubert, MP, Sir Henry and Lady Phillips, Sir Michael Shersby, MP, Sir John Stokes, Sir Jerry Wiggin, MP.

Mr Donald Limon (Clerk of the House of Commons), Mr Peter Jennings (Serjeant at Arms, House of Commons), Mr R B Sands (Clerk of Public Bills, House of Commons), Mr Geoffrey Henning (Crusaid), Mr J L Carter and Mrs L S M Hardy (Gloucestershire Probation Service), Mr P W Winkley (Governor, HM Prison, Barrack Square, Gloucester), Miss June M C Kerrow (Mental Health Foundation), Brigadier P C S Heldenstam (Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire and Wiltshire Regiment).

Mrs R Adams, Mr John Bowis, MP, Mr Michael Brown, MP, Mr Simon Burns, MP, Mr Michael Clark, Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, MP, Mr Douglas French, MP, Mr Christopher Gill, MP, Mr Harry Greenway, MP, Mr Ken Hargreaves, Mr Illtyd Harrington, Mr Trevor Hill, Mr and Mrs Nicholas Hinton, Mr Andrew Hunter, MP, Mr Nigel Jones, MP, Mr Roger Knapman, MP, Dr Mary Loveday, Mr Paul Marland, MP, Mr Michael Mates, MP, Mr Anthony Nelson, MP, Mr William Powell, MP, Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, Colonel and Mrs R Siefert, Mr Anthony Steen, MP, Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP and Mrs Ann Winterton, MP, and representatives of Gloucestershire Age Concern, Cheltenham Borough Council, Nacro, New Bridge, Stonham Housing Association and many friends and colleagues.

Dinners

Naval and Military Club
Admiral Sir Peter Herbert, General Sir Peter de la Billière and the Right Rev Colin James were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Naval and Military Club held last night at the club. Captain J.C.C. Russell, chairman, presided.

Royal Warrant Holders Association
Mrs Margaret Barbour, President of The Royal Warrant Holders Association, presided at the annual dinner of the association held last night at Grosvenor House. Miss Prue Leith and Sir Bernard Ingham were among the speakers.

Atlantic Council
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner held last night at the Pump Room, Bath, on the eve of the national conference of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom. Sir Richard Luce, chairman, presided. The Mayor of Bath was the host at a reception held earlier.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
Mr Alan Fulford presided at the annual dinner of the Building Surveyors division of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors held last night at the Royal Lancaster Hotel. Mr Owen Luder, President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Dr Kevin Jones also spoke.

University of Bristol
Sir Michael Angus, leader of the *Campaign for Resource* at the University of Bristol, in the presence of Sir Jeremy Morse, Chancellor, and Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor, presided last night at a dinner for Patrons and friends of the University held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, SW1, to mark the fourth anniversary of the launch of the *Campaign for Resource*. The guests included:

Dr Jill Pellew, the Countess of Limerick, Sir David Wills, Mr Haydn Harrisson and Sir George and Lady White.

Since the *Campaign for Resource* was launched an investment of £30 million has been raised for the University.

Birthdays today

Charles Bronson, the actor, is 73 today; Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster, is 76

Viscount Linley celebrates his 34th birthday today.

Miss Roseanne Arnold, actress, 43; Mr Kenneth Baker, CH, MP, 61; Mr C.W. Beveridge, chief executive, Scottish Enterprise, 50; Mr John Biffen, MP, 65; Mr Nicholas Budgen, MP, 58; the Earl of Caithness, 47; Mr Francis Cook, MP, 60; Sir Kenneth Corley, former chairman, Joseph Lucas (Industries), 87; Miss Violetta Elvin, prima ballerina, 70; Mr Roy Emerson, tennis player, 59; Mrs Jean Floud, former Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, 80; Mr Michael Gallemore, former Editor, *The Sporting Life*, 51; Mr John Heppell, MP, 47; Mr Larry Holmes, boxer, 46; Sir Christopher Leaver, former Lord Mayor of London, 58; the Earl of Lonsdale, 73; Lulu, singer and actress, 47; the Earl of Meath, 85; Major-General Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, 80; Mr Kenneth Morgan, former director, Press Complaints Commission, 67; the Earl of Northesk, 41; Mr Conor Cruise O'Brien, journalist and author, 78; Sir Timothy Raison, former MP, 66; Mr Albert Reynolds, former Prime Minister of Ireland, 63; Mr Vanni Treves, senior partner, Macfarlanes, 55; Vice-Admiral Sir John Webster, 63; Mr Ian Wright, footballer, 32.

Service of the Order of the British Empire

The Queen has commanded that a Service of the Order of the British Empire is to be held in St Paul's Cathedral at 11.30am on May 8, 1996. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master of the Order, will be present.

Those belonging to the order and holders of the British Empire Medal who wish to attend should apply for a ticket giving their name, address, appointment (GBE, KBE, DBE, CBE, OBE, MBE, BEM) and other decorations in block capitals as soon as possible and not later than Friday, March 8, 1996, to the Registrar, Order of the British Empire, Central Chancery, St James's Palace, London SW1A 1BH.

No tickets are available for spouses who are not members or medallists of the order, or guests, due to the size of the order and the limited seating capacity in St Paul's Cathedral.

Legal retirements

Judge Hannah and Judge Kolbert retired on Tuesday from the circuit bench on the North Eastern Circuit.

Service dinners

Inns of Court and City Yeomanry
The Lord Mayor was the guest of honour at a dinner of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry held last night at Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, and was received by Colonel the Earl of Limerick. Major J. Fern presided.

REME
Major-General M.S. Heath, Representative Colonel Commandant, and Officers of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers were the hosts at an autumn guest night dinner held last night at West Court, Finchampstead. Dr Mary Harris, President of the Women's Engineering Society, was the principal guest.

Tri-Service Headteachers Conference
Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, Chief of the Defence Staff, was the Guest of Honour at a dinner given by the Principal Personnel Officers at the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, last night for Headteachers attending the biennial Tri-Service Headteachers Conference. Lieutenant-General the Hon Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, Deputy Chief of the Defence Staff (Programmes and Personnel), presided.

RAF 42 Group
Air Vice-Marshal P.D. Markey, Director of Support Management (RAF) and Head of the RAF Supply Branch and Trades, presided at the 50th and final annual meeting and dinner of the RAF No 42 Group Reunion Club held last night at the RAF Club.

Luncheons

Atlantic Council
Mr Alan Lee Williams, Director of the Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the Bath and County Club, Bath, for fellows of the council and representatives of the media before the opening of the national conference.

Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club
Miss Sue MacGregor was the guest speaker at the autumn luncheon of the Ladies' Naval Luncheon Club held yesterday at Lincoln's Inn. Lady (Brian) Brown, chairman, presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr M.P.C. Bagnall
and Miss S.E. Reynolds
The engagement is announced between Matthew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Graham Bagnall, of Stambridge, Essex, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Ashley Reynolds, of Thorpe Bay, Essex.

Mr C.D. Baker
and Miss H.M. Bassett
The engagement is announced between Ciaran, eldest son of the late Mr Arthur Baker and of Mrs Delia Baker, of Stoneygate, Leicester, and Hilary, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bassett, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Mr F. Colt de Wolf III
and Miss N.A. Blore Lagesse
The engagement is announced between Francis, son of the late Mr Francis Colt de Wolf, Jr, and of Mrs Dorothée de Wolf, of Washington DC, and Nathalie, daughter of Mr Guy Lagesse, of Chazay d'Azergues, France, and of Mrs Tessa Blore, of Chelsea, London.

Mr D. Drysdale-Anderson
and Miss C. Dolce da Silva
The engagement is announced, from Brazil, between Donald, son of Dr and Mrs Dick Anderson, of Edinburgh, and Clarissa, daughter of Colonel and Mrs Julio Dolce da Silva, of Rio de Janeiro.

Mr E.G. Dubois
and Miss H.A. Sharpe
The engagement is announced between Edward, son of the late Mr Robin Dubois and of Mrs Doreen Dubois, of Little Horsted, Sussex, and Honor, daughter of the late Major Michael Sharpe and of Mrs Sandra Sharpe, of Kimpton, Hampshire.

Dr D.E.H. Edgerton
and Dr C.A. Elliott
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of the late Mr Herbert Edgerton and of Mrs Alicia Edgerton, of Bristol, and Claire, daughter of the late Mr Andrew Elliott and of Mrs Ruth Elliott, of London.

Mr T.E. Gilbey
and Miss B.C. Martin
The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of the Hon William and Mrs Gilbey, of Waltham St Lawrence, Berkshire, and Beth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Martin, of Kingston, Surrey.

Mr M.K.T. Hindley
and Miss L.C. Furness
The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of the Rev Anthony T. Hindley, of Lewes, and Mrs Rachel V. Williamson, of Ditchling, and Louise, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan R. Furness, of Wooley, Hexham.

Mr M.A. Hogben
and Dr R.K.F. King
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Hogben, of Bucklebury, Berkshire, and Katy, daughter of the late Mr Alan Flint and of Mrs Wendy King, of Burnham, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.J. McCredie
and Miss J.F. Aserappa
The engagement is announced between Crispian, only son of the late Mr Donald McCredie and of Mrs Phyllis McCredie, of Cross in Hand, East Sussex, and Jean, only daughter of the late Mr Jack Aserappa and of Mrs Willy Aserappa, of Compton, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr P. McKeown
and Miss M. Sandro
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D. McKeown, of Warrington, and Marinel, youngest daughter of Mrs M. Sandro and the late Mr E. Sandro, of Batangas.

Captain M. Tarn, RAMC
and Mrs J.C.E. Gray
The engagement is announced between Mark, only son of Mr and Mrs C. Tarn, of Basildon, Essex, and Julia, younger daughter of Colonel and Mrs C.H. Wilson, of Framingham Earl, Norfolk.

Mr F.J.E. Tavernor
and Miss E.S. Lawrence
The engagement is announced between Francis James Edward, eldest son of Mr and Mrs James Tavernor, of Aberarth, Dyfed, and Elizabeth Sarah, daughter of the late Mr Geoffrey Lawrence and of Mrs Anne Lawrence, of Bishopstone, Herefordshire.

Marriages

Mr J.T. Clarke
and Miss G.V. Healey
The marriage took place on Thursday, November 2, 1995, at The Royal Suite, Claridges, London, of Mr John Clarke, son of Mr and Mrs T. Clarke, of Loughton, Essex, to Miss Gail Healey, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T. Healey, of Caerleon, South Wales.

Mr J.C.O. Gordon
and Miss L.F. Orr
The marriage took place on Saturday, October 28, at St Mary's Church, Shrewton, Wiltshire, of Mr Jeremy Gordon, younger son of Mr Anthony Gordon and the late Mrs Sylvia Gordon, to Miss Lucinda Orr, eldest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Gavin Orr.

The bride was attended by her sisters, Caroline and Heather. Mr Toby Duthie was best man.

Dr J.P. Martin
and Miss V.C.N. Champion
The marriage took place on October 21, 1995, at St Mildred's, Tenterden, of Dr Jonathan Martin to Miss Virginia Champion.

A reception was held on The Wealden Pullman and the honeymoon is being spent in Kenya.

Mr A. Singer
and Mrs C.A.S. Card
The marriage took place on October 7, at All Saints Church, Biddenden, Kent, of Mr Alfred Singer, son of the late Dr and Mrs S. Singer, of Putney, to Mrs Christine Anne Susan Card, née Dengate, of Hastings, Sussex.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will attend the British High Performance Horse Sale at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh Park, at 11.00; and, as President of the British Olympic Association, will attend a gala dinner at City Hall, Cardiff, at 7.00.

Princess Margaret, as President of the NSPCC, will open Kaleidoscope, the NSPCC/Barnardos Child Protection Partnership at Newcastle Road, Sunderland, at 3.15; and will attend a gala evening at the Mayfair Ballroom, Newcastle upon Tyne, at 7.25 in aid of the society.

The Duchess of Kent will visit the Thompson Street Fire Station and Greater Manchester Brigade Training Centre at Thompson Street, Manchester, at 10.40; will open the magnetic resonance scanner at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, Pendlebury, Salford, at noon; will attend a service of dedication at St Mary's, Mulberry Street, at 2.30; and, as Patron of the Royal Northern College of Music, will attend the Glories of the Keyboard festival at Booth Street West at 7.55.

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Winds from him clear the skies, and his hand slays the twisting sea serpent. These are but the fringes of his power and how faint we hear the whisper of him.
Job 26 : 13,14 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALLNER - On October 28th 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to Sue (née McCann) and Andrew, a beautiful son (James Stephen), a brother for Katie.

CHANCE - On October 20th, for Irene, Michael and Sasha, a baby girl, Natalia Catherine Lila. 7lbs 6oz and growing fast.

COMERFORD - On 27th October, to Jessica Alison-Jane (née Barnes) and Patrick, a son, Sam.

FEW - On October 27th at The Portland Hospital, to Amanda (née Evans) and William, a daughter, Isabella Mary, a sister for Eloise and Clementine.

FISH - On October 30th, at The Lindo Wing, to Gay (née Collins) and Justin, a son, Caspar Ronald Collins.

GRIFFIN - On 28th October 1995, to Nicola (née Hillyard) and Stephen, a daughter, Elspeth Emily.

GROVE - On October 31st at The Portland Hospital, to Annabel (née Hooper) and Roger, a daughter, Octavia Florence, a sister for Sophie and Pandora.

KILDAHL - On 31st October, to Jane (née Carver) and Simon, a daughter, Harriet Elinor.

LAI-CHEONG - On 28th October at The Portland Hospital, to Luis and Lilette, a beautiful daughter, Rachel Louise, a sister for Daryl.

NORTH - On November 2nd, to Lucy (née van der Meulen) and Jeremy, a daughter.

SHALDERS - To Jane (née Llewelyn) and David, a son, Henry William on October 28th at Queen Charlotte's.

TAYLOR - To Harriet (née Keys) and Richard, of Barnes, London, a gorgeous daughter, Gemma Helen Daisy on 31st October 1995.

THOMPSON - On October 29th at The Portland Hospital, to Stacy and Ian, a lovely son, Nicholas Brian, a brother for Victoria.

WHITMORE - On October 27th, to Sara (née Tiarks) and James, a son, Nicholas Charles, a brother for Harry.

DEATHS

ANNFIELD - Alexander Pierce died suddenly in Zambia on October 19th. Beloved husband of Adrienne, father to Gareth and Lisa and brother of Averil, Alastair and Lewis. A Memorial Service was held at Lusaka Cathedral.

BARRETT - Robert Michael Stewart, on 31st October 1995, peacefully at 19 Ravelston Park, Edinburgh, aged 83 years. Michael, beloved husband of Margaret and brother of Betty. Service at Dean Parish Church, Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh on Monday 6th November at 2.30 pm. Interment thereafter at Dean Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to William Purves, Oakvale Funeral Home, 105 Whitehouse Loan, Edinburgh, EH9 1BD.

BROUN - (née Burrell). On October 31st, peacefully in hospital, Josephine aged 97. Widow of Douglas, beloved Aunt, Great-Aunt and Great-Great-Aunt. Loved by all her relatives and friends. Funeral Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium at 11.30 am on Friday November 10th. Flowers may be sent c/o E.R. Hickmott & Son, 41 Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1SD.

BUSH - On October 31st 1995, peacefully in hospital following a short illness, Alan Dudley, Mus.D., Composer, formerly Professor Royal Academy of Music, aged 94. Much loved father of Rachel and Catherine and devoted grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral at Golders Green Crematorium on Tuesday November 7th at 2.30 pm. Flowers by 12.30pm and/or donations, if preferred, to Musicians' Union Benevolent Fund to go to Nethercott & Son Ltd., 20 Aldenham Road, Radlett, WD7 7AX.

CAMM - Arden, on 31st October 1995 aged 80, after many years of illness borne with great courage, much loved husband of the late Molly and uncle of Margaret and Mary. Service at St Mary's Church, Oatlands, on Thursday 9th November at 2pm. Family flowers only but donations, if wished, to Sparks, Francis House, Francis Street, London SW1P 1DE.

CHASE - On 31st October at home Marjorie Stuart, beloved wife of John, mother of James and Simon, mother-in-law of Ann and Gabi. Funeral Service at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 8th November at St Peter's Church, Empingham followed by private cremation. Family flowers only. Donations to OXFAM, if desired, to be sent to Fords, Church Street, Oakham, Rutland.

COUSENS - On 1st November, Colonel Patrick Godfrey Llewellyn Cousens CBE, aged 83. Much loved husband of the late Joan; father of Michael and Belinda and grandfather of Patrick, Emily and Fleur. Funeral Service at St Margaret's, Isfield on Monday 6th November at 11.30 am. Donations, if desired, to The Royal British Legion c/o R. Brooks, 35 Wivelsfield Road, Haywards Heath RH16 6EN.

GIFFORD - Margaret Laetitia (Letty) widow of Charles. Peacefully after a short illness on November 2nd 1995 at Aldeburgh Hospital, Suffolk. Sadly missed by her children Patrick, John, Mary, William and Andrew, her grandchildren and her many friends. Funeral at Aldeburgh Parish Church on Friday 10th November at 1pm, followed by a Wake in the Church Hall. All welcome. Donations if desired to Jubilee Opera c/o Aldeburgh Cinema, 51 High Street, Aldeburgh.

HORROCKS - Suddenly on 29th October 1995, Clive Richard, dearly loved son of Geoffrey Gurton and the late Elizabeth Angela.

KING - On Friday October 27th 1995, very suddenly and unexpectedly, Anna Caroline King aged 21 years. Very much beloved daughter of Fenella Esson (formerly King née McKaig) of East Meon, Hampshire and of Antony King of Vancouver, Canada. Precious granddaughter of Sue and Rae McKaig and of Mary King. Strictly private funeral. Flowers very welcome to J. Edwards and Son (Funeral Directors), 13 St George's Walk, Waterlooville, Hampshire. A Memorial Service will be held later.

LEMOS - Costas M. passed away peacefully on 1st November. Funeral Service will be held on Monday 6th November at 12 noon at the St Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Moscow Road, London, W2. The burial will take place in Athens, Greece. In lieu of floral tributes the family request that donations be made to the Greek Orthodox Charity Organisation, 46 Abbey Lodge, Park Road, London NW8 or the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 20 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6EF.

LITYNSKI - Joseph peacefully in hospital aged 85, much loved by all. Funeral Mass 9th November 2 pm at Marya Assumpta Chapel, 23 Kensington Square, W8, followed by cremation.

MENDEL - Thomas Owen peacefully at home on 31st October aged 67, much loved husband of his late wife Val and dear father of Tom. Service at St Michael's and All Angels, Weyhill Road, Andover at 11 am Tuesday 7th November, followed by cremation. Flowers (if desired). Undertakers Messrs. Halcrow, Andover (telephone 01264 336 265). R.I.P.

NICOLLE - Patrick, Illustrator, formerly of Mill Hill, London, died peacefully on 1st November 1995. Enquiries c/o G. Gamble & Sons (Quorn) Ltd., Funeral Directors, 101 Meeting Street, Quorn, Leicestershire, LE12 8AQ, telephone: (01509) 415415.

PARKER - David A.B. (née Pecker) peacefully in the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice, on October 31st 1995, aged 49 years. Beloved husband of Liz, loving father of Laurence, Charles and Rosalind. Funeral Service at St Laurence's Church, Church Stretton, on Wednesday November 8th at 2 pm, followed by interment at Greenhills Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Shropshire and Mid Wales Hospice. Enquiries to A.S. Morris & Son, Funeral Directors, Church Stretton, tel: (01694) 722876.

PASHLEY - David George, suddenly on Sunday 29th October 1995, aged 50: Head of Business Administration, Thames Television International, since 1982. Dearly loved and deeply mourned by his family and the many who enjoyed the warmth of his friendship and affection and for whom his death brings an irreplaceable loss. Private funeral at Newport, Isle of Wight, today, 3rd November. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o William Hall, Funeral Directors, Springbank, Winford Road, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 0JX.

RAWSON - On November 1st, Major Aubrey Stuart, of Adare, Co. Limerick, sudden and unexpected. Beloved husband of the late Wendy Rawson, much loved father to his sons Glennell and David and sorely missed by daughter-in-law Liz and his grandchildren Taya and Kyle.

RIGBY - On 31st October 1995, peacefully in hospital, Doris May (Mary) aged 90, widow of R.G. Vaughan Rigby (sometime Headmaster of Hallfield Preparatory School and also of Stonyhurst Preparatory School). Funeral Service Thursday 9th November, 2pm at St Peter's Church, Hinton Road, Bournemouth, interment following. Floral tributes to Deric-Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth.

ROBERTSON - On October 31st 1995, peacefully at Ealing Hospital, Fortified by the Rites of Holy Church, Celia Robertson, aged 90 years. Dearly loved widow of Peter. Requiem Mass at St Benedict's Abbey, Ealing, on Tuesday 7th November at 2.15 pm. Flowers, if desired to A. France & Son, 45 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1, tel: (0171) 405-4901.

SCHIFF - George passed away after a short illness on 30th October 1995. Funeral to take place at the Liberal Jewish Cemetery, Pound Lane, Willesden, on Sunday 5th November at 12 noon.

SEARS - On November 1st suddenly at home, Cicely Isobel of Ashill, Norfolk, aged 65. Dearly loved wife of Jack and a beloved mother, mother-in-law and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Ashill, nr. Swaffham, Norfolk, on Thursday November 9th at 2pm. Flowers, or if desired donations for St John's Ambulance (Ashill Division) c/o W.C. Littleproud & Son Funeral Directors, Bradenham, Thetford, Norfolk IP25 7QU.

SINCLAIR - On November 2nd, peacefully at home, Kathleen Mary (née Hill), widow of Norman Taylor Sinclair, mother of John and Rosemary. Private family cremation to be followed by Memorial Service at a later date. No flowers. Donations if desired to St Catherine's Hospice, Crawley.

STEVENS - Ursula (née Plowman) on All Saints' Day very peacefully in Southwold Hospital, most loving wife of Ralph. Funeral Service on Thursday November 9th at Blythburgh Parish Church at 2.30 pm followed by burial in the churchyard. No flowers please.

THOMPSON - On 30th October at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, Jessica Blanche Eleanor, last surviving child of Ralph and Florence Thompson and beloved aunt of Joanna, Judith and Gillian. Funeral at All Saints Church, Fulham, on Monday 6th November at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu to the Restoration Fund, All Saints Church, Fulham, SW6.

WHITELOCK - Peacefully at home in Thornton-Le-Dale on November 1st 1995 Charles Cecil aged 93 years. Beloved husband of the late Marjorie and stepfather of Ashley, Anne, Helen and Mary. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Thornton-Le-Dale on Thursday 9th November at 2 pm.

WILLIAMS - Anne Meyler, beloved sister, aunt, great-aunt, died on 1st November. Funeral at St Andrew's Marlesford on Thursday November 9th 2.30 pm.

WILTSHIRE - Trevor George Wiltshire, son of Roger George Wiltshire, J.P., (deceased) and Mrs J.A. Wiltshire. Will be sadly missed by his partner Jane, children Martin, Nicola, Carlyn, Joana and Bill, family and friends. Funeral Friday 10th November, Service at Elim Church, Osborne Street, Swindon at 1pm followed by cremation at Kingsdown Crematorium, Swindon. Flowers may be sent to The Hillier Chapel of Rest. Enquiries Hillier Funeral Service, tel: (01793) 522797.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

GALLAGHER - A Memorial Service for the life of Rory Gallagher will be held on Wednesday November 8th at 11 am at The Brompton Oratory, Brompton Road, London SW7. All welcome. R.I.P.

KIRKPATRICK - A Service in memory of Peter Kirkpatrick will be held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Putney, at 12.15 pm on Sunday 19th November to be followed immediately by a Wake at Thames Rowing Club.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

SELBY WRIGHT - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Very Reverend Dr. Ronald Selby Wright, CVO, DD, FRSE will be held at Canongate Kirk, The Royal Mile, Edinburgh at 12 noon on Wednesday 6th December 1995.

BIRTHDAYS

PERRETT Julie Amanda Piper, with all my love on your 31st. Julian

FLUFFY, all my love and congratulations on this exceedingly special day. I'm planning to be around for the next 40. Love F

TO MUM, with much Love on your 60th Birthday. From Susan and Caroline. XX.

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DESMOND SHAWE-TAYLOR

Desmond Shawe-Taylor, chief music critic of *The Sunday Times*, 1958-83, died on November 1 aged 88. He was born in Co Galway on May 29, 1907.

MUCH of the quality Desmond Shawe-Taylor brought to his work as a critic was owed to his wide cultural interests — books, painting, travel, all fostered by quick intelligence, discriminating curiosity, a great capacity for enjoyment and a passion for exactitude. His style was fresh, readable, fastidious but full of good sense.

Shawe-Taylor's musical tastes were catholic with few dark areas. An incautious word of praise for, say, Schumann's *Scenes from Faust* might possibly lead to a minor explosion and a demand to know: "How one could possibly like anything so German?"

But of his knowledge and understanding of singing there could be no doubt. Here he was buttressed by his record collection, by his own long experience in concert hall and opera house and by his friendship with various eminent singers. He knew Emma Eames towards the end of her life in America, corresponded with Lotte Lehmann and was host at his Long Crichel home to Elisabeth Schumann. A firm upholder of the old traditions of smooth emission and good tone, in one matter he was positively and rightly dogmatic — the absolute importance of good diction, maintaining that there had never been a great singer without clear words.

Although he was a great-nephew of the playwright and Abbey Theatre co-founder Lady Gregory and a cousin of the art collector Sir Hugh Lane, his immediate family background was sporting. His love of music from childhood onwards was confirmed at Shrewsbury School. At Oriel College, Oxford, he took a first in English, then spent valuable time in Germany and Austria before his first job, with the Royal Geographical Society in London. Later he began to review novels, films and occasionally music for the *New Statesman*.

During the war Shawe-Taylor served in the Royal Artillery. By 1945 he was back with the *New Statesman*, this time as a music critic. In 1958 came the invitation to succeed Ernest Newman, who had retired just before his 90th birthday, as music critic of *The Sunday Times*. With a season as guest critic of the *New Yorker* 1973 to 1974, he remained at *The Sunday Times* until 1983. It was not an easy task, as Shawe-Taylor was well aware, to succeed such a long-established institution as the witty, mock-oracular, practically omniscient Newman. Shawe-Taylor brought to the task his own kind of cosmopolitanism, which was more broadly based particularly in operatic matters. As a man 40 years younger, he had wider sympathy for contemporary music. He proved well able to stand comparison with his formidable predecessor.

He was still at school when he made the beginnings of what later developed into an extensive and valuable collection of gramophone records. The hobby, which became an absorbing interest, gave him a keen understanding of the contribution the gramophone could make to musical life, and culminated in the celebrated collaboration with his friend and *New Statesman* colleague Edward Sackville-West, later Lord Sackville. *The Record Guide* (1951), compiled when the long-playing record was just beginning to challenge the old 78rpm in the market, soon became useless as an indication of what was available in the shops but remained — and remains — an invaluable stimulus to collectors and a bedside book full of pithily expressed description and comment on music and its performers. Various supplements and revisions appeared during the next five years, some with the assistance of Andrew Porter.

The only book for which Shawe-Taylor was solely responsible was a slim volume, *Covent Garden* (1948), a useful historical account, perspicacious about opera audiences and changing styles and levels in singing. In later years he wrote for *The Gramophone* a series of detailed articles about recent recordings of a type needing a gruelling amount of hard work and research. Many will regret that he did not spend the time on another book instead. He made valuable, typically illuminating contributions to the *New Grove*.

After the war Shawe-Taylor, with Sackville-West and another close friend, the painter, collector and art dealer Eardley Knollys, jointly purchased a Queen Anne house at Long Crichel in Dorset. They were joined later by a fourth partner, the literary critic Raymond Mortimer, another *New Statesman* colleague.

Long Crichel was something more than a weekend retreat. It was a civilised place where friends old and new, with diverse interests and backgrounds but all with something to contribute, could stay, talk about music, books, pictures, enjoy good food and drink, and play croquet.

In 1956 Sackville-West bought a house in Ireland where he spent much time until his death nine years later, though retaining his association with Long Crichel. Knollys moved out in 1965, taking his collection of pictures with him. Mortimer died in 1980. Shawe-Taylor, with the ambience unchanged, remained there until his death, with the ophthalmic surgeon Patrick Trevor-Roper who had moved into Long Crichel in 1966.

Shawe-Taylor could be an impatient man and this betrayed itself in various ways. There was something avian about his appearance and movements, for example in the way he would dart across the room in a friend's house, with a muttered apology, to adjust the controls of a record-player to what he felt was correct — he liked it loud. He had the quickness of a jay-walker: having briskly hopped and sped across a crowded four-way avenue in a foreign city, leaving one stranded, terrified, in the middle, he would ask querulously when one finally made it, "What on earth were you waiting for?"

He was, above all, impatient of inaccurate or sloppy writing. Many younger colleagues must have winced at the repeated "have you checked your references?" and sub-editors at his meticulous corrections — he was reputed to be equally a stickler for the niceties of croquet. Any suspicion of pedantry, however, was brushed away by the helpful way in which things were put right, and by the infectious enthusiasm and the realisation that enjoyment as well as knowledge was being communicated. Desmond Shawe-Taylor was appointed CBE in 1965.

He was unmarried.

ALUN PASK

Alun Pask, former captain of the Welsh rugby union team, died in Blackwood, Gwent, on November 1 during a fire at his home aged 58. He was born there on September 10, 1937.

Alun Pask, far left, at the Wales v Ireland international, Cardiff Arms Park, 1967

IF ALUN PASK had lived in another, more commercial, era he might have become a sporting legend. As it was, his rugby career reached its peaks during the early 1960s, when much of British rugby was not so much black and white as a dull shade of grey.

Pask was a beacon of individuality in a decade of sporting conformity, when the game in Wales was struggling towards the heights it would reach during the 1970s. His distinctive one-handed dive for the try-line has been captured on film. But those who saw him live in action will recall another picture, that of the defender who captured both the essence of traditional rugby and the athleticism that was yet to come.

Pask was playing only his fourth international when, in March 1962, Wales met France at Cardiff. It was a low-key season, a draw and a defeat having preceded this match. Wales led 3-0 when Henri Rancoule, the French wing, broke away and seemed certain to score: but, following the instinctive diagonal line of the old-style corner-flagging No 8, the lean figure of Pask emerged as if from nowhere and gradually overhauled the Frenchman to save the day. It was a marvellous tackle and typical of a player with an innate Welsh feel for the game.

Alun Edward Islwyn Pask was born in Monmouthshire — now Gwent — and educated at Pontllanffraith Grammar School. But he returned to his home county after qualifying as a teacher at Loughborough Colleges and doing National Service with the South Wales Borderers and The Paratroop Regiment. He taught at Tredegar Comprehensive School until he retired to work part-time as a sports broadcaster with BBC Wales.

His imagination was seen to best effect on the rugby field. He struck up a partnership with Haydn Morgan, for the Valleys club, Abertillery, and for Wales. The red-headed Morgan at flank forward was the destructive force and Pask the constructive element, with safe hands which would have allowed him to play at centre had he not been an outstanding back-row forward.

Indeed in the 1965 international against Ireland, with the triple crown at stake, an injury forced Wales to readjust their back division with Terry Price, the full back, moving to centre and Pask leaving the pack to play in his place. At 6ft 3in and 15st, he was a big man by the standards of that decade. But he made light of the unaccustomed demands and Wales won 14-8.

In all, Pask won 26 caps for Wales and captained the side on six occasions between 1966 and 1967. He went on two Lions tours, to South Africa in 1962 where he revelled in the firm surfaces, and to Australasia in 1966. He was a strong favourite to captain the latter side but, though Wales won the five nations championship, the leadership went to Michael Campbell-Lamerton, an Army officer who played lock for Scotland.

The Welsh Rugby Union's centenary history described Pask as "one of the most accomplished all-round footballers in his position that Wales had then seen," and he was a member of one of the union's early coaching panels. His career ended in 1967 just before the decade in which Wales dominated northern hemisphere rugby and British touring parties abroad. In retirement, Pask preferred to follow the game from a distance and to support the sporting ambitions of his children.

He is survived by his wife Marilyn, and three sons.

BRIAN LENIHAN

Brian Lenihan, Irish Deputy Prime Minister, 1987-90, died in Dublin on November 1 aged 64. He was born on November 17, 1930.

BRIAN LENIHAN was three times Minister for Foreign Affairs in Irish Governments, and Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) for three years. Before that he had held an unprecedented variety of ministerial portfolios over a period of a quarter of a century.

He was a popular and jovial figure with considerable political acumen who rendered sterling service to his own Fianna Fail party and made some useful contributions to national politics. As Foreign Minister between 1987 and 1989 he was an important force in stabilising Anglo-Irish relations. In 1990 he was narrowly defeated for the office of President of Ireland by Mary Robinson.

Lenihan was brought up in the Midland town of Athlone where his father, who was to follow him into politics, was in business. He was educated at the local Marist Brothers school and then at University College, Dublin. He was a keen sportsman and played for the Irish amateur soccer team.

He was called to the Bar in 1954 and practised for a time. In 1957 he was elected to the Senate and won a seat in the Dail in 1961. He was one of a group of thrusting young men whom de Valera's successor as Taoiseach, Sean Lemass, brought into his Government to preside over the emergence of Ireland from the economic stagnation of the previous decades. Charles Haughey was another and the two men became close associates.

Lenihan succeeded Haughey as Minister for Justice in 1964 and was responsible for relaxing the absurdly puritanical censorship of books and films that had made Ireland a laughing stock.

He went on to hold successively the portfolios of Education, Transport and Foreign Affairs under Jack Lynch between 1968 and 1973. Although friendly to Haughey he remained loyal to Lynch when in 1970 Haughey was dismissed from the Government and charged with conspiracy arising out of the attempted importation of arms for use in Northern Ireland. Lenihan was a loyal party man and would never have thought of opposing his leader.

As Minister for Fisheries from 1977 to 1979 Lenihan played an important role in the negotiation of the common fisheries policy of the European Community. He abandoned the claim for a wide exclusive fishery zone to which both the British and Irish Governments had been committed and was rewarded by a favourable deal on quotas and subsidies for Irish fishery protection vessels. It was a skilful manoeuvre not made easier by the intransigence of the Irish fishermen. But Lenihan knew how to defuse truculent opposition at home: it was hard to be hostile to a man so manifestly full of goodwill for everybody.

This quality, together with a considerable sensitivity in negotiation, was to serve him well when he became Foreign Minister under Charles Haughey who succeeded Lynch as Taoiseach in 1979. Lenihan struck up a good understanding with his British counterpart, Lord Carrington, in the period leading up to the various Thatcher-Haughey summits. It was a help that Lenihan had none of the atavistic anti-British hostility commonly found among his party colleagues. He had sympathy with Carrington's long-term vision of a united Ireland linked to Britain by a defence pact.

Yet he infuriated Margaret Thatcher when, in the aftermath of her visit to Dublin, he claimed — with typical optimism and lack of caution — that the two Governments were moving towards Irish unity. As events transpired, the relationship between the two Governments improved in the aftermath of the IRA prisoners' hunger strike in Northern Ireland and then disintegrated completely when the Irish Government backtracked clumsily to take a neutral position in the Falklands War. It was probably not helpful that by this time Lenihan had been moved from Foreign Affairs to the Department of Agriculture.

When Haughey returned to power in 1987 Lenihan was restored as Foreign Minister. It was not an easy road as Haughey distrusted the officials in the Department of Foreign Affairs and was begrudging in his attitude towards the Hillsborough agreement negotiated by the Garret Fitzgerald Government in 1985. But the new Taoiseach allowed Lenihan to play a conciliatory role and this — together with the attitude of the British Foreign Office and its political head Sir Geoffrey Howe — helped to sustain Anglo-Irish relations through a succession of crises in 1988.

About this time Lenihan paid the price for many years of conviviality when his liver failed. He had a successful transplant in 1989 and continued in government as Minister for Defence. He was nominated as his party's candidate for the office of President in 1990.

Despite his poor health, he was the clear favourite. However, shortly before polling day he was exposed making contradictory statements on whether he had attempted to pressurise the outgoing President not to grant a dissolution of the Dail in 1982. It may have been an inconsequential error but the Progressive Democrats, who were then in coalition with Fianna Fail, flexed their muscles as guardians of political rectitude and insisted on his dismissal from the Government.

Lenihan's explanation that the drugs he had taken for his liver condition had dimmed his recollection was unhelpful in the campaign as the public felt that a sick man should not present himself for high, if honorific, office.

Although Lenihan had a clear majority over Mary Robinson in terms of first preference votes he was narrowly defeated by her when the votes for other candidates had been redistributed. For the only time in his political career his good humour deserted him. While many sympathised with him on the treatment he had received there were those who felt that he had at last reaped the rewards for the bluff and careless talk with which he had got away for so long. Since 1990, despite poor health, he remained active in politics on the back benches, always anxious to contribute.

Although he held high ministerial office Lenihan was never thought of as a possible Taoiseach. His penchant for glib phrases had the effect that he was not taken totally seriously and he further undermined his credibility by making promises which everybody knew would never be honoured.

As a minister his failure to read briefs and his willingness nevertheless to expound at length often made him the despair of his officials. This was a pity as he was a man of quick intelligence and sensitive political judgment who could be very impressive once he mastered a subject.

Yet he never blamed others when things went wrong. He could take tough decisions with an airy nonchalance. He had a lack of side or of excessive ambition, as well as a decency and humanity which at the end of the day was reassuring to people.

Lenihan is survived by his wife Anne, four sons and one daughter. His sister Mary O'Rourke is now deputy leader of Fianna Fail.

ON THIS DAY

November 3, 1894

Alexander III had succeeded his father Alexander II who was assassinated in 1881. His suppression of opposition and Russification of borderlands was continued by Nicholas, the last Tsar, who had to abdicate in 1917 and a year later was murdered.

THE DEATH OF THE TSAR

Manifesto of the Emperor Nicholas II

St Petersburg, Nov. 2

The following Imperial manifesto has been issued today:-

"By the grace of God we, Nicholas II., Emperor and Autocrat of All the Russias, Tsar of Poland, Grand Duke of Finland, &c., hereby make known to all our faithful subjects that it has pleased God, in His inscrutable ways, to cut short the precious life of our dearly beloved father, Emperor Alexander Alexandrovitch. His serious illness yielded neither to medical treatment nor the benign climate of the Crimea, and on October 20 [Nov. 1] he passed away at Livadia, surrounded by his august family and in the arms of her Imperial Majesty the Empress and in our own.

"Our inexpressible grief will be understood by every Russian heart, and we believe there is no place in our vast Empire where warm tears will not be shed over the Emperor so prematurely called into eternity, away from the land which he loved with all the ardour of his Russian soul, and to whose welfare he devoted all his thoughts, sparing neither health nor life. Not only in Russia, but far beyond its bounds, the memory will long be respected of the Tsar who was the personification of the unwavering truth and peace lasting unbroken throughout his reign.

"But God's holy will be done. May firm trust in the wisdom of Heavenly Providence strengthen us. May we derive consolation from the consciousness that our affliction is shared by all our beloved people; and may they never forget that the power and strength of Holy Russia depend upon unity with us, and boundless devotion to our person.

"In this sad but solemn hour, when we ascend the throne of our forefathers, we bear in mind the testament of our departed parent, and penetrated with its counsel, we solemnly vow, in the presence of the Almighty, to keep always before us, as the object of our life, the peaceful progress, might, and glory of beloved Russia, and the happiness of all our faithful subjects.

"Given at Livadia, October 20, in the year of our Lord, 1894, and the first of our reign.

"Nicholas"

I extract the following characteristics of the late Tsar and his policy from today's Press:-

Alexander III was a remarkably quiet and honest man, loving truth and hating falsehood. While Europe made alliances he stood alone with Russia, and conquered Europe by forcing it to value peace and believe in him and his word. His reign was all too short; but he did what he could. He was the exponent of all the better qualities of the Russian — a great worker and an ideal husband and father. The late Tsar mounted the throne at a desperate time, when half society was alarmed at the rapidity of reforms, and the other half complained that they progressed too slowly. He recognised that, after the terrible conclusion given to the previous reign, Russia required not new promises, but a revision of what had already been done — the rectification of defects, suppression of corruption, and the reinforcement of authoritative power.

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JENNY MATTHEWS/NETWORK

One of the Government's main aims is to create jobs for women, who can be found working in boiler rooms, as welders, and in the pharmaceutical industry

Economy reaps rich harvest

Democracy has given people hope, **Christopher Thomas** writes

After nine economically disastrous years of dictatorship, Bangladesh has introduced reforms that would have been inconceivable before the arrival of democracy in 1991. This watery, densely populated country, battered throughout its young life by political and natural calamities, at last has reason for cautious hope.

Many of its primary objectives are ambitious and often controversial: rapid industrialisation, an end to protectionism, creation of new industries specifically for the employment of women and the overhaul of nationalised corporations. The turnaround in many areas has been impressive, although poverty grinds on. The Bangladesh that Henry Kissinger called a basketcase, and which Joan Baez sang about in a ballad on starvation, is not the one that greets visitors to the flat, delta landscape beyond the heaving cities.

Every scrap of land is intensely cultivated and bellies are not empty: the nation is self-sufficient in rice, and nobody dies of starvation. The world, harbouring an outdated image, fails to give credit to Bangladesh.

Increased economic activity is demonstrated by greater shows of wealth in Dhaka. Beyond the chaotic central area a new crop of huge houses has grown up, all with new cars in the driveways; men with cellular telephones can be seen doing business over lunch in five-star hotels, and chauffeured limousines with darkened windows weave through the bedlam of downtown Dhaka.

But Bangladesh does not talk, as does India, of the poor benefiting eventually from the trickle-down theory. As a senior Western diplomat observed: "The problems here are too vast for that. Poverty must be tackled head-on, with special programmes targeted at specific problems."

Half the country's 119 million people live in poverty and, for most, there is no foreseeable prospect of a significantly better life. A quarter of the people live in absolute poverty, meaning they barely have the means to survive.

The crucial question is whether its fractious politicians will continue destroying the fragile democratic experiment with strikes and demonstrations, which have cost one of the world's poorest countries dearly in money and reputation.

Saifur Rahman, the respected Finance Minister, during his budget speech in June spoke of "colossal mismanagement of public utilities and public industrial corporations, which operate with little accountability or performance standards". He declared that worsening performances by Government-owned industries were a drag on growth and exacerbated the financial difficulties of public banks, which are in a parlous state because of huge loans they gave to the industries.

The World Bank, full of praise for many of the reforms introduced so far, laments that the changes have stalled. But it points to some promising signs: there has been prolonged macroeconomic stability, inflation was held below 2 per cent for two consecutive years (although it has lately shot up to around 6 per cent), the external current account deficit is down, balance of payments are healthy and foreign exchange reserves have risen to the equivalent of seven or eight months of imports.

The poverty crisis is being confronted at the grassroots through education. Theoretically there has been compulsory primary education since 1993, although most children never see the inside of a real classroom. Tubewells are being sunk to provide clean drinking water, and sanitation is being installed at many primary schools. A "food for education" programme, a model for other countries, encourages poor families to send children to school instead of throwing them into a sea of exploited child labourers.

Not so many years ago almost every penny of development money came from foreign aid, but now Bangladesh is meeting more than 30 per cent of the bill.

The Government says infant death rates fell from 105 per thousand in 1970 to 88 last year and that life expectancy has risen from 50 to 58. More than half of children under five, however, remain severely or moderately malnourished.

Both farming and industry are bedevilled by power cuts, although most big factories have installed their own generators. It would cost $3 billion dollars to upgrade power generation to meet demand, so the Government has opened power generation to the private sector. However, extensive privatisation has proved too risky a political adventure.

One Western observer says: "The business classes, which have become export-orientated, complain bitterly about the politicians. For the sake of the country there has to be political compromise."

Largest joint venture sets sail

WHEN a ship carrying 12,000 tonnes of refrigerated ammonia sailed from the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong bound for California in January this year, it marked the realisation of an ambitious 20-year project to establish the nation's largest multinational joint venture.

One of the country's few natural resources is an abundance of natural gas and this self sufficiency in nitrogenous fertilisers persuaded the World Bank in 1981 that the construction of an export-orientated fertiliser plant could earn foreign currency.

A consortium involving the British, Japanese, Danish and Bangladeshi Governments and four large multinationals created the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco) and built a $510 million plant on 70 acres of land on the bank of the River Karnaphuli.

Kafco is producing about 575 million tonnes of ammonia a year for export, worth $150 million, making it the country's largest single earner of foreign exchange. It has seven-year agreements with the Marubeni Corporation of Japan and Transammonia AG of Switzerland for marketing and sale of its entire production of ammonia and urea.

Most of Kafco's ammonia will be exported to the east coast of India with supplies also going to Taiwan, South Korea and the Philippines. Building the plant created 2,000 local jobs.

Manucher Towhidi, the Kafco managing director, says: "There is no better symbol of a major foreign investment in Bangladesh and no better message to the world." It would demonstrate, he said, what could be achieved in Bangladesh and create confidence among international companies and financial institutions.

MICHAEL KNIPE

Hungry for investment

Sound finance policies have won plaudits. **Ahmed Fazl** reports

Bangladesh is fast emerging as a Third World success story. Despite overwhelming odds posed by annual flooding and cyclones, one of the world's most crowded nations not only feeds itself but is on the threshold of becoming a net food exporter.

Over the past four and a half years government policy has focused on bringing about macro-economic stability, promoting private sector initiatives and developing human resources. Now Bangladesh can lay claim to having South Asia's best managed economy, and present itself as a land of investment opportunity.

Dhaka is aiming for a growth of 6 per cent in GDP in 1995 after achieving growth of 5 per cent last year. Saifur Rahman, the Minister of Finance and architect of the reforms programme, says: "The Bangladesh economy is now at the threshold of faster growth." The country is reaping the harvest of the bold and pragmatic reforms which have created a resilient economic base. The industrial sector is growing annually by 10 per cent, and exports by 20 per cent.

The liberalisation of the economy has attracted the interest of overseas investors. In the past four years, a total of 2,303 industrial units have been registered with the Government's Board of Investment (BOI) involving a total investment of £1.4 billion. BOI officials said 253 of the registrations are foreign investment projects accounting for an investment of more than £696 million

The trend of investment has been rising since 1994 and a total of 923 investment projects, including 148 joint ventures or 100 per cent foreign investment enterprises, were registered with the BOI. Investors come from North America, Europe, the Far East, South-East Asia and South Asia.

Foreign investors are attracted to Bangladesh because the country has successfully carried out major reforms in its trade policy by liberalising imports, rationalising taxation rules and making the Bangladesh taka convertible.

Private investment from overseas sources is welcome in almost all areas of the economy. Bangladeshi law protects foreign investment against nationalisation and expropriation. The Government guarantees repatriation of capital and equal treatment with local investors.

Relatively cheap and easily trainable labour is abundantly available in Bangladesh. Almost 45 per cent of the total population of 120 million comprise the workforce. The country offers unconditional 100 per cent foreign equity or ownership in industrial investment and generous tax holidays.

There is practically no restriction on issuing work permits to a foreign national and the laws for granting permanent residency and citizenship to foreign investors have been greatly liberalised.

On the other hand, the divestiture of previously state-owned enterprises has provided challenging opportunities for entrepreneurs. Reforms have eliminated restrictions on trade, investment and foreign exchange.

The dismantling of the state-controlled economic order has unleashed the creative energy of the nation. Enormous investment prospects exist in the manufactured export sectors such as composite textiles, the leather industry, frozen food, power generation, oil and gas exploration, telecommunication, electronics and agro-based industries.

As the economy pulsates with higher production and growth from new factories and its meticulously cultivated rice fields on the flat delta countryside, Bangladeshis hope that their country's image as an international "basketcase" is at last beginning to fade.

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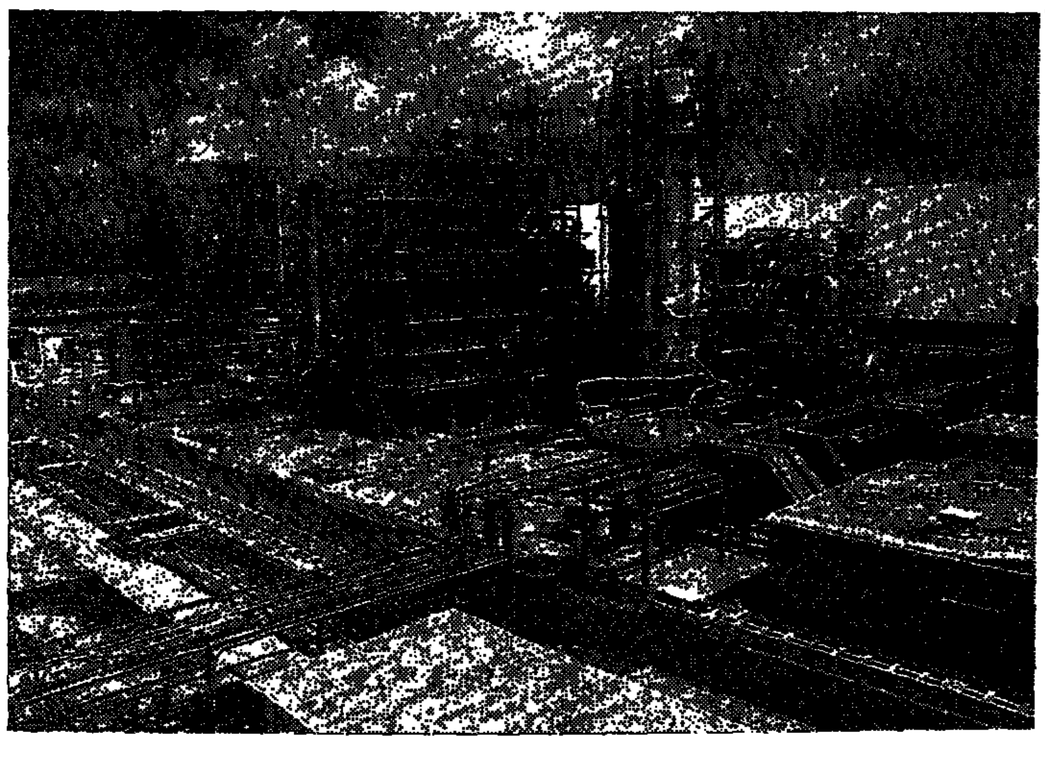

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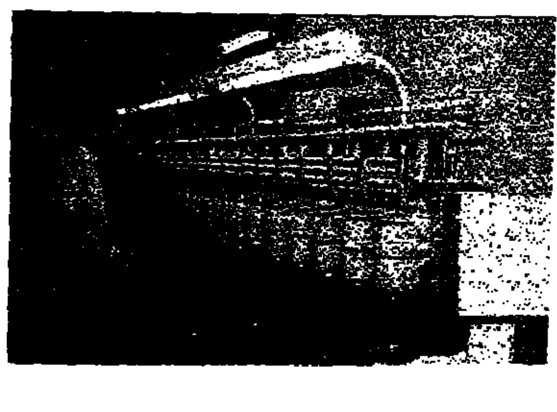

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مكرر من الاصل

Islam the key to birth control

Bangladesh's family planning programme is a model for the rest of South Asia, which has one billion inhabitants. The average number of children per family has fallen from almost seven to fewer than three.

In the 1970s almost nobody in this overcrowded country used contraceptives; today half of fertile couples do so. Nevertheless, because Bangladeshis are predominantly young, the population of 119 million is expected to reach at least 200 million within 30 years before it levels off. It is already one of the world's most crowded countries and soaring numbers will lead, inevitably, to worsening social problems.

The key to curbing population growth has been to win over the Islamic clergy, which used to be hostile to family planning. Much of the credit for this goes to Mizanur Rahman, the director of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, who organised seminars and conferences to convince clergymen that neither the Koran nor the sayings of the Prophet opposed restrictions in family sizes. Indeed, he argued that the Koran specifically stated that couples should not have more children than they can support.

While some clergymen still discourage the use of contraceptives, "at least 70 per cent are in favour of family planning", says Mr Rahman. Many still oppose their sale in shops, however.

One in seven Bangladeshi children dies before the age of five because of acute poverty. Almost all children are born without a professional assistant on hand and births generally take place in unhygienic conditions.

Bangladesh relies exclusively on imported contraceptives. Sometimes they run out, or there are brand changes that upset people. Men generally do not use condoms and the most popular form of birth control is the Pill. The first condom manufacturing plant is to be built soon.

"This is a male-dominated society," Mr Rahman said. "Men increasingly do not object to their wives using contraceptives but they will not take the initiative themselves."

The Family Planning Association involved journalists in its programmes and held seminars to explain its objectives, resulting in reduced hostility from the press and, eventually, active support. There is now little press or political opposition to family planning. However, South Asia's population grows by 24 million people a year, primarily because of India's increase.

The association is campaigning for a higher legal minimum age for marriage, improved female literacy and modification of laws of inheritance to ensure equal rights to parents' properties for sons and daughters.

Present inheritance laws make it imperative for families to have a son. The association's field workers try to persuade people that large families are not necessarily an insurance policy for old age.

Bangladesh's population has doubled since 1961. The problem has been worsened by increased life expectancy, which has gone up from 50 to 58. "Everything is against us — poor communications, low literacy among women and a conviction that large families are best," Mr Rahman says. "Despite this we have made tremendous progress. We may have to wait two or three years before starting to talk about the merits of one-child families: you cannot push these things too quickly. What is important is that we are changing people's attitudes."

Bangladesh's population is still increasing by two million people a year. More than 23,000 female field workers travel from house-to-house giving information on family planning and advising illiterate women how to take the Pill. Another 11,000 workers from non-government organisations add to the effort. A campaign has also been started to persuade women to breastfeed children for two-and-a-half years, because that reduces their fertility.

Several hundred market hawkers have also been drawn into the effort, using their crowd-pulling skills to sell contraceptives. This helps to overcome embarrassment and social resistance to family planning. "We have one of the most comprehensive family programmes in Asia," Mr Rahman said, "but we have a long way to go."

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

FRANK SPOONER PICTURES

The garment trade earned £1.4 billion in exports in the last financial year

Rag trade success gives women work

After phenomenal growth in the past 15 years, Bangladeshi ready-made garment manufacturers are vying for a slice of the more lucrative global fashionwear market, *writes Ahmed Fazl*. Exporters and market analysts say the burgeoning industry is now preparing to produce brand names in children's wear, suits, women's clothes and super quality garments.

S.M. Fazlul Huq, a leading garment manufacturer in Dhaka, says: "It's a crucial phase because now we will be entering the quality market where buyers will be more fussy about style and finish."

From a modest beginning in 1978 as a non-traditional export sector earning £4 million in 1981, the industry is now billed as the best hope for Bangladesh to come out of the "poverty trap". In 1994-95, export earnings from this sector reached £1.4 billion. Export earnings should be almost £2 billion by 2000.

Bangladesh is the fifth largest exporter to the United States and the European countries. Most of the shirts and T-shirts worn in the EU are made in Bangladesh.

Besides contributing 63 per cent of total foreign exchange earnings of the country, garment making has become the largest source of employment generation. About 1.4 million people, 90 per cent women, work in the garment sector and its ancillary industries.

Today Bangladesh has some 2,200 garment factories mostly located in and around Dhaka and its southern port cities of Chittagong and Khulna. But only 4 per cent of the 2.25 billion yards of fabric required by the industry could be supplied by local textile manufacturers last year. The rest was imported.

An exhibition of garment products in Dhaka in October attracted a huge number of foreign buyers who made spot orders worth £16 million.

The garment industry is also leading to social change. "This industry has created for the first time large-scale employment opportunity for women," said Redwan Ahmed, a member of parliament. Women from poverty-stricken families in the countryside fill up most of the skilled and semi-skilled jobs in the garment factories, earning up to daka 4,000 (£63) a month).

The sight of young women descending on Dhaka's streets every morning clutching lunch-boxes and making their way to the factories indicates great social change.

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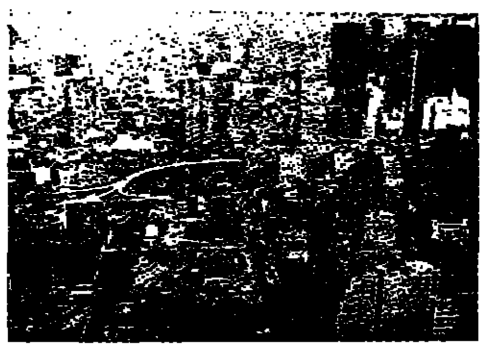
TO
New York
Every Friday
& Monday



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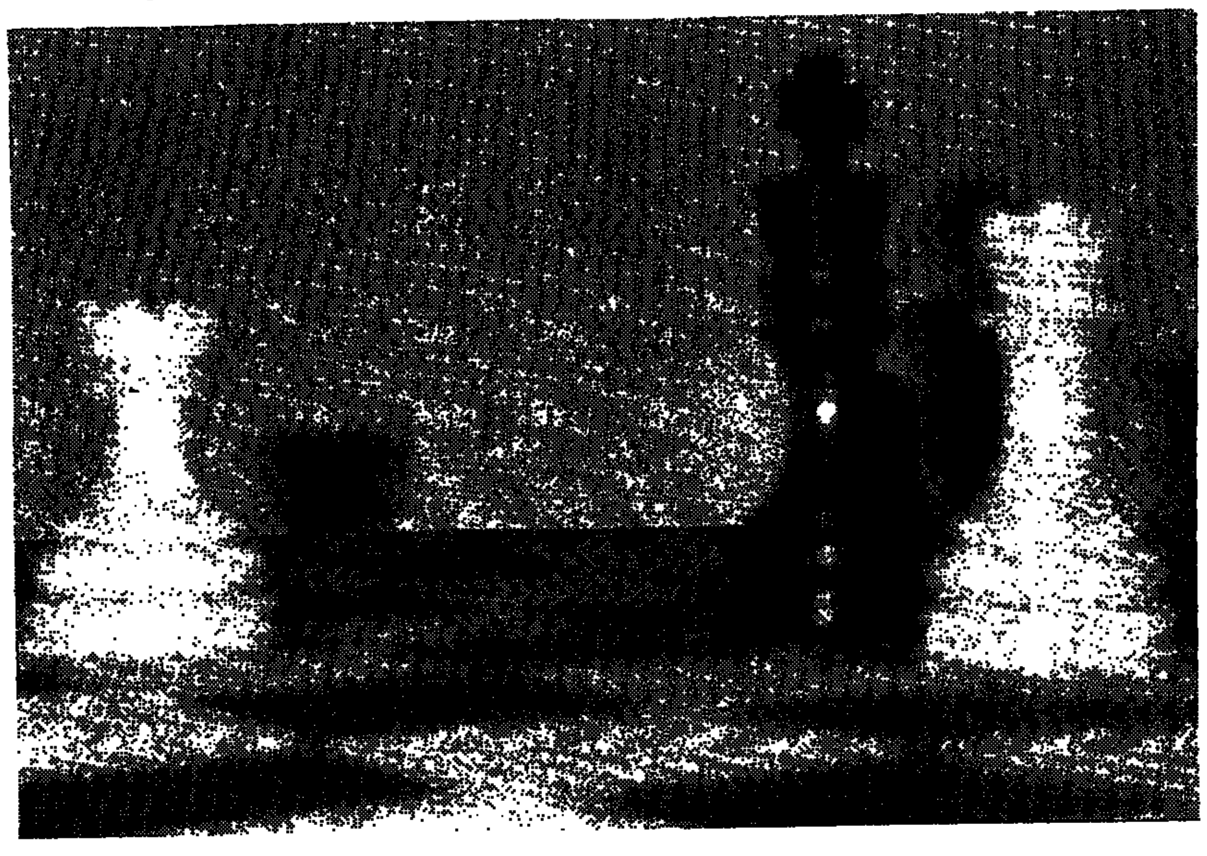
YOUR WINNING MOVE



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THE TIMES TODAY

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 3 1995

NEWS

Ministers 'gunning' for judges

■ An unprecedented rift has opened between the Government and the judiciary over Michael Howard's plans to force judges to impose tougher sentences on hardened criminals.

Senior judges are to discuss what action to take over the Home Secretary's party conference speech which prompted a swift response from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gosforth. Whitehall officials have admitted that ministers are "gunning" for the judges......**Page 1**

Call to sack 15,000 teachers

■ The chief inspector of schools called for 15,000 "incompetent" teachers to be sacked to raise education standards. Chris Woodhead said it was time to stop making excuses for poor lessons and to get rid of those who were letting their pupils down......**Page 1**

£60 million fight

Virginia Bottomley is fighting a Treasury demand for a cut of £60 million in the £1 billion national heritage budget......**Page 1**

Vanishing act

Gerry Taylor, 45, a town clerk, has gone missing at the same time as £190,000. He left a false trail of clues to Moscow and a letter to his ex-wife saying: "I cannot come back"......**Page 1**

Fight for divorce Bill

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, launched a battle to save his Divorce Law Reform Bill after being forced to retreat on new laws to protect women and children from violence in the home......**Page 2**

Boy beats law

A boy who runs two gangs has told police he will retire from crime at his next birthday because he can be locked up once he reaches 15. Despite pleas from his parents for him to be detained, the legal system cannot stop him......**Page 3**

Bugs beat drugs

Drugs are losing their power to defeat disease in many European countries......**Page 6**

Jet deal opposed

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, is under pressure to reject a proposal to lease American F16s to replace ageing Tornado aircraft......**Page 8**

General bailed

General Magnus Malan, the former South African Defence Minister, and ten apartheid-era security chiefs appeared in court accused of murder and were released on bail......**Page 13**

Revenge attack

A new outbreak of tit-for-tat Middle East violence exploded when sucide bombers, avenging last week's Mossad assassination of the leader of Islamic Jihad, wounded 11 Israelis. Both attackers died......**Page 11**

Powell opposition

Leaders of a dozen American conservative groups united in an extraordinary attempt to scare General Colin Powell away from seeking the Republican presidential nomination......**Page 12**

Queen faces protest

About 70 Maori protesters, some with placards saying "imperial parasite", chanted: "Queen go home" as she urged New Zealanders to work together to heal racial divisions......**Page 14**

US irritated

America, which favours Ruud Lubbers to be Nato's new Secretary-General, expressed irritation that Britain, France and Germany had all declared their support for the former Dutch Prime Minister before reaching a private consensus with Washington......**Page 15**

What makes Britain great for visitors

■ The most detailed survey of what makes Britain an international tourist attraction reveals strange reasons why foreigners visit. Germans, Austrians and Swiss are "sun-shunners"; Greeks seek medical care; Hong Kong visitors go bargain hunting; Indians and Pakistanis want to watch cricket and Latin Americans follow fashion......**Page 5**

SIMON WALKER

The Prince of Wales in Stratford yesterday after a recording featuring him reading Shakespeare's prose was released. Page 9

BUSINESS

Pay: Pay increases for company directors are on the rise, in spite of the public row over high boardroom pay, according to new findings today......**Page 25**

Pensions: Widows and dependents are among 150,000 cases under urgent review in a £4 billion pensions mis-selling investigation ...**Page 25**

Banking: Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds, has made it clear to directors that he does not expect them to exercise options that crystalize as a result of the takeover of the TSB......**Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 4.3 points to close at 3523.0. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 84.2 to 84.5 after a rise from $1.5785 to $1.5809 and from DM2.2356 to DM2.2438....**Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: The battle for batting places in England's Test team intensified when John Crawley made 87 not out, Mark Ramprakash 70 and Robin Smith a duck, on the first day of the match against Border......**Page 48**

Football: The Football Association is calling a summit to try to find out why English clubs have done so poorly in European competitions this season......**Page 48**

Rugby union: Jonathan Davies has returned to Cardiff to fill the club's ground and to act as a mentor for young players ......**Page 48**

Tennis: Clare Wood, Jo Durie, Samantha Smith and Amanda Janes reached the semi-finals of the women's singles in the national championships at Telford .**Page 45**

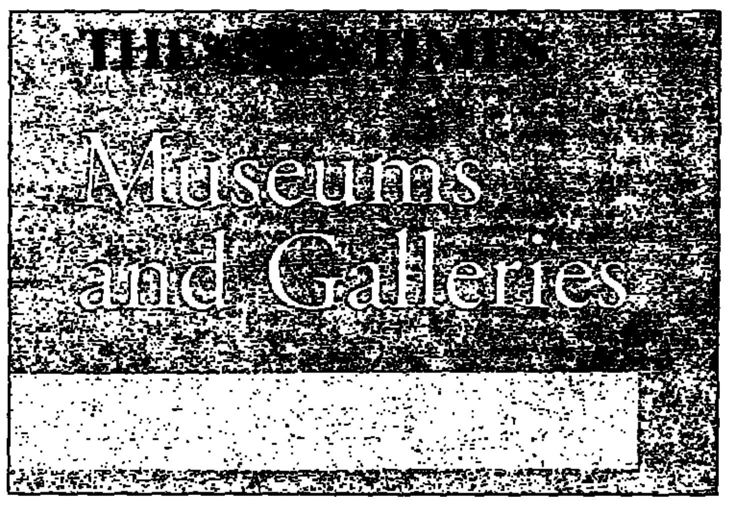
ARTS

Pop on Friday: David Sinclair on Freddie Mercury's swansong; Alan Jackson on Liverpool's hottest club; Caitlin Moran on the rise of the British group with the Gallic name, St Etienne......**Page 39**

Déjà vu in the West End: An unprecedented number of old hit shows are returning to the West End, as London's theatre producers struggle to retain their audiences......**Page 37**

Westminster recreated: The British Museum has mounted an intriguing exhibition that evokes the splendour of the old, medieval Palace of Westminster......**Page 37**

Stardust danced: A new ballet by Richard Alston uses dozens of recordings of Hoagy Carmichael's classic song *Stardust*......**Page 38**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ READER OFFER
Discounts and concessions in *The Times* Museums and Galleries guide

■ BOOKS
Andy McNab's *Immediate Action* and Elizabeth Jane Howard's *Casting Off*

FEATURES

The name's still Bond: Pierce Brosnan acquits himself with style in *GoldenEye* as the fifth film James Bond in 33 years......**Page 16**

Cast away: Elizabeth Jane Howard's new novel might not have excited such interest had it not coincided with the death of Sir Kingsley Amis......**Page 17**

Factoring: Should companies that pay bills late face an automatic interest charge?......**Pages 34, 35**

SPECIAL REPORTS

The Flying Squad: Why are armed police still patrolling Heathrow Airport? See eight-page Business Travel special in Section 3 of today's *Times*

EDUCATION

Hit squad: Professor Michael Barber, a member of the Hackney Downs "hit squad", defends his recommendation to close the school......**Page 41**

THE PAPERS

Maggie Williams, the first lady's chief of staff, and Susan Thomases, the first lady's confidant and unofficial aide, will appear once again on Capitol Hill to explain the odd events following the death of Vince Foster ... Do the repeated assertions that their recollections are faulty mean that they are attempting to hide the content of conversations with the first lady?

The Washinton Times

Preview: The true character of the funnyman Arthur Haynes remains elusive in *Heroes of Comedy* (Channel 4, 9.00pm). **Review:** Matthew Bond says goodbye to an exquisite flirtation between two people......**Page 47**

Judicial Moonshine

The withdrawal of the Rev Sun Myung Moon's application to enter the United Kingdom is a welcome end to a controversy which has caused embarrassment to judiciary and executive alike......**Page 19**

Muddles and marks

The effective ban on open discussion of monetary union which Herr Kohl has imposed on the German political and financial establishment has been subverted..**Page 19**

The Prince's choice

All the Bard's good bits now bear a royal seal......**Pages 9, 19**

BERNARD LEVIN

Did *you* know that in the Japanese Parliament there is a party called the Clean Government Party?......**Page 18**

ROBERT RHODES JAMES

Every other empire in world history has disintegrated in bloody circumstances, and with enduring bitterness. The last chapters of the British Empire were, with some exceptions, totally different**Page 18**

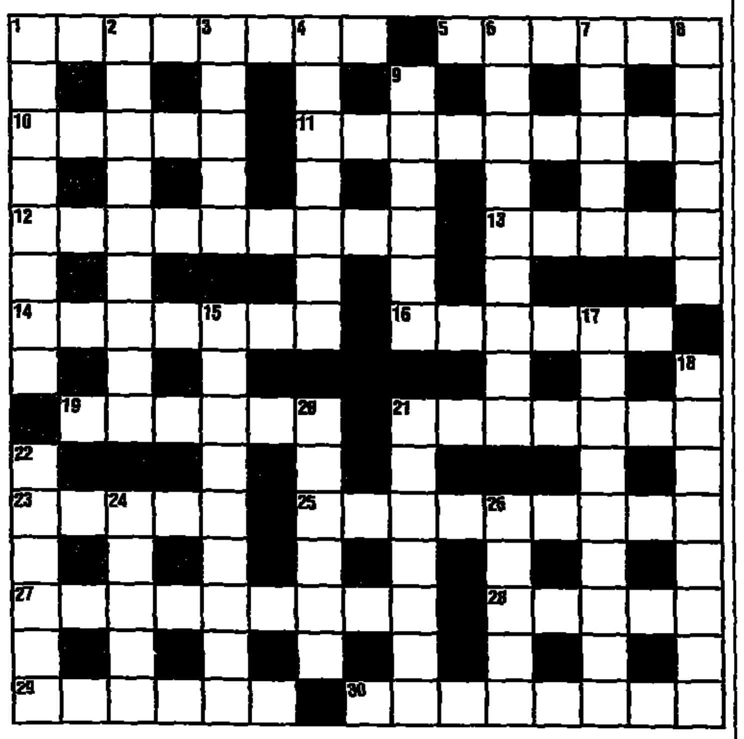
PHILIP HOWARD

An important academic function is to shoot down lies and rebut fakes. This branch of *haute vulgarisation* takes patience, love of getting things shipshape and a tolerance of being thought a spoilsport. The world prefers its myths to its facts, and fairy-stories satisfy the soft part of human nature. Nevertheless, the Kensington Stone from Minnesota is a fake as old and crooked as a left-handed corkscrew with knobs on......**Page 18**

Desmond Shawe-Taylor, chief music critic of *The Sunday Times*, 1958-83; **Brian Lenihan**, Irish Deputy Prime Minister, 1987-90; **Alun Pask**, former captain of the Welsh rugby union team......**Page 21**

Divisions within the Tory party ranks; NHS funding for experimental treatments; Britain should plant more coniferous trees; death sentence on Ken Saro-Wiwa; VCs' pensions......**Page 19**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,003



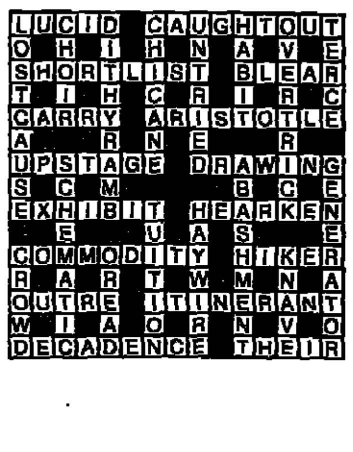
ACROSS

1 Stop and take a meal at one of the estates (8).
5 Behind craggy outcrop lurks a black beetle (6).
10 Drill at army college in the country (5).
11 A label attached to weapon immediately (2,1,6).
12 Using what's available in Bath, cure him, possibly (9).
13 Smooth iridescent substance from northern area (5).
14 Cleaner going round distinguished member's room (7).
16 Confer about rough seas in port (6).
19 What smoke comes from, they say, or what detects it? (6).
21 Complain about twerp's drinking-bout (7).
23 Splendid drink for knocking back (5).
25 Ray's annual journey (5-4).
27 What Orange king had for money? (4-5).
28 Grieve a little while by the ashes? (5).
29 Robbery in a wood on the far side of river (6).
30 It's not fair when beast circumvents trap (8).

DOWN

1 Remove vehicles overturned on junction (8).
2 Charge for delivery when beer's on time (9).
3 Legitimate male domain (5).
4 Man with pistol maybe to jump in front of the Queen (7).
6 Holed vessels – do they come ashore simultaneously? (9).
7 Like some characters in rugby, not totally pleasant (5).
8 One offering local deliveries? (6).
9 Cowboy to go collecting gold with companion (6).
15 Like big hall's bar with inlaid quartz (9).
17 A garment that's out of this world? (9).
18 City criminal stifles exclamation of surprise (8).
20 Deodorant I can't wait for ... ! (4-2).
21 Driver lost in the course of hostilities (7).
22 Sign walker spotted, mile from the start (6).
24 Dance girl needing musical work (5).
26 As a misanthrope, I'm not mixing (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,002



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LUCID CAUGHTOUT
O H I H N A V E
SHORTLIST BLEAR
T I H C R I R C
CARRY ARISTOTLE
A   R N E   R  
UPSTAGE DRAWING
S C M     B G E
EXHIBIT HEARKEN
  E   U A S   E
COMMODITY HIKER
R A R T W M N A
OUTRE ITINERANT
W I A O R N V O
DECADENCE THEIR
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Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code:

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Lerwick, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Lowestoft, Suffolk, 0.14in; highest sunshine: Fishguard, Dyfed, 9.1hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be dry with sunny periods after the clearance of fog patches in some central and western areas. Eastern England will be rather more cloudy at times but should stay generally dry throughout the day.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be dry with fog patches slowly clearing to leave sunny spells, although northern Scotland and later Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy at times.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England:** mainly dry, bright or sunny intervals. Wind mainly northerly, light or moderate. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** fog patches clearing, then dry with sunny spells. Wind mainly northeast, light. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **SW England, N Ireland:** sunny spells, becoming cloudy, perhaps with some rain in the west later. Wind southeast, light or moderate. Max 12C (54F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NW Scotland:** broken cloud, bright or sunny intervals. Wind northeast, becoming southeast, mostly light or moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** dry and bright, some sunny intervals. Wind mainly northeast, light or moderate. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **Outlook:** mainly dry with sunny spells but patchy frost and fog overnight.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

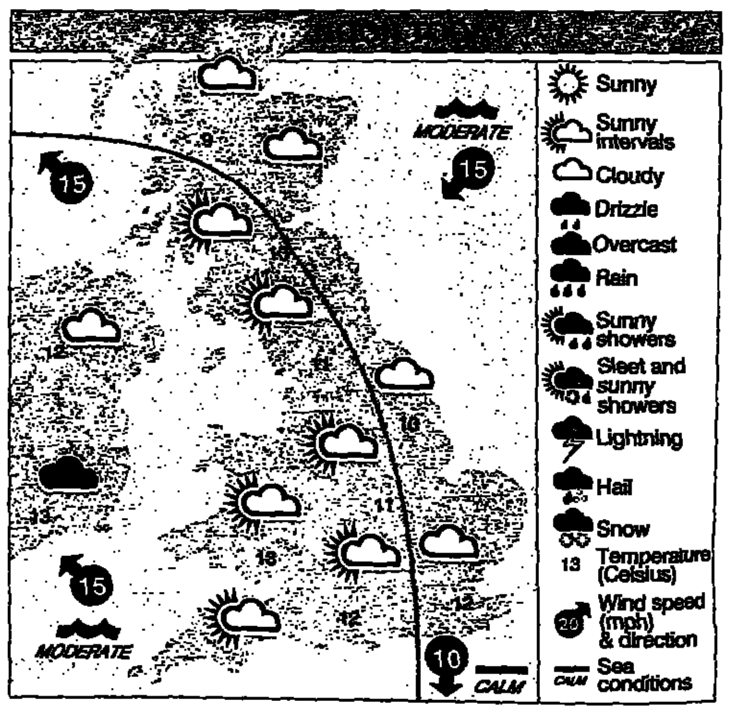
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.7	-	11	52	s
Anglesey	7.5	-	14	57	s
Aspatria	8.0	-	12	54	s
Aviemore	5.9	0.01	11	52	s
Belfast	6.0	-	12	54	s
Birmingham	8.5	-	11	52	s
Bognor R	7.8	-	12	54	s
Bournem'th	7.8	-	12	54	s
Bristol	7.4	-	13	55	s
Buxton	8.6	-	9	48	s
Cardiff	8.7	-	13	55	s
Clacton	2.1	-	10	50	b
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	7.9	-	14	57	s
Cromer	1.0	-	11	52	c
Doncaster	X				
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	7.7	-	12	54	s
Edinburgh	7.6	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	6.8	-	12	54	s
Exmouth	6.5	-	12	54	s
Falmouth	2.5	-	14	57	b
Fishguard	9.1	-	13	55	s
Folkestone	2.7	0.02	12	54	b
Glasgow	7.8	-	13	55	s
Guernsey	8.4	-	14	57	s
Hastings	7.6	-	12	54	s
Hayling I.	7.6	-	12	54	s
Herne Bay	3.7	-	11	52	b
Hove	X				
Hunstanton	1.5	0.02	11	52	b
Ilfracombe	X				
Isle of Man	X				
Jersey	7.9	-	15	59	s
Kinloss	2.2	-	11	52	b
Leeds	X				
Lerwick	0.6	0.02	8	46	d
Leuchars	6.9	-	13	55	s
Littlehmptn	X				
Liverpool	8.5	-	12	54	s
London	2.5	-	11	52	b
Lowestoft	1.8	0.14	11	52	c
Manchester	8.3	-	13	55	s
Margate	1.7	-	11	52	b
Minehead	8.4	-	13	55	s
Morecambe	8.4	-	12	54	s
Newcastle	6.0	-	12	54	s
Newquay	2.0	0.01	13	55	b
Norwich	1.6	0.05	12	54	c
Nottingham	X				
Oxford	8.3	-	11	52	s
Penzance	-	-	13	55	du
Plymouth	X				
Poole	8.0	-	13	55	s
Prestatyn	X	-	13	55	s
Ross-o-wye	6.6	-	13	55	s
Ryde	X				
Salcombe	X				
Sandown	7.7	-	12	54	s
Sauntn Snd	7.8	-	15	59	s
Scarboro'	1.4	0.06	10	50	b
Shanklin	X				
Shrewsbury	7.2	-	12	54	s
Skegness	X				
Southend	3.0	-	12	54	s
Southport	X				
Southsea	7.4	-	12	54	s
St. Ives	X				
Stornoway	0.8	0.04	10	50	d
Swanage	8.8	-	12	54	s
Teignmouth	8.1	-	13	55	s
Tenby	X				
Tiree	6.2	-	12	54	s
Torquay	8.0	-	14	57	s
Ventnor	8.3	-	13	55	s
Weymouth	7.9	-	12	54	s

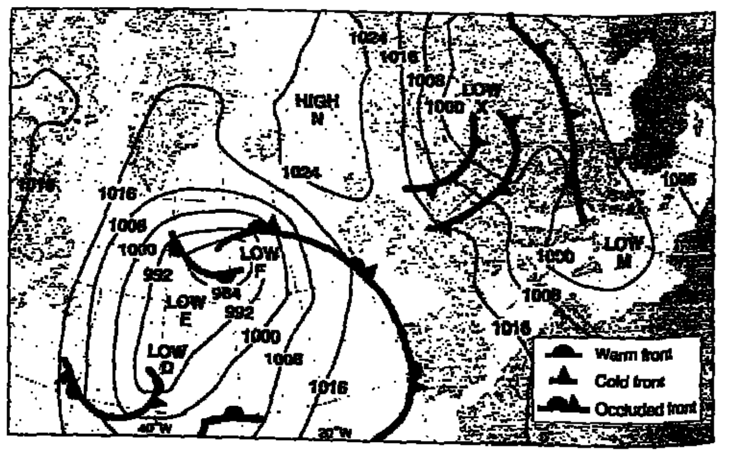
ABROAD

Ajaccio	18	64	f
Akrotiri	17	63	f
Alex'dria	24	75	s
Algiers	26	79	f
Amst'dm	10	50	r
Athens	20	68	s
B Aires	28	82	s
Bahrain	31	88	s
Bangkok	30	86	c
Barbados	25	77	c
Barcelona	20	68	s
Beirut	23	73	f
Belfast	10	50	c
Belgrade	10	50	f
Berlin	5	41	c
Bermuda	23	73	f
Biarritz	13	55	f
Borde'x	11	52	c
Brussels	10	50	r
Budapst	9	48	f
Cairo	25	77	f
Cape Tn	20	68	f
Ch'church	13	55	X
Chicago	16	61	c
Cologne	8	46	c
Corfu	16	61	r
C'phagn	4	39	r
Dublin	12	54	s
Dubrovnik	17	63	s
Faro	23	73	s
Florence	12	54	r
Frankfurt	8	46	c
Funchal	23	73	f
Geneva	10	50	c
Gibraltar	24	75	f
Helsinki	-2	28	s
Hong K	25	77	s
Innsbrck	7	45	r
Istanbul	15	59	s
Jeddah	20	68	s
Jo'burg	23	73	s
Karachi	35	95	s
L Angels	17	63	c
L Palmas	23	73	f
Le Touquet	12	54	f
Lisbon	23	73	f
Locarno	17	63	s
Luxembg	8	46	c
Luxor	26	79	s
Madrid	20	68	c
Majorca	27	81	s
Malaga	26	79	f
Malta	21	70	f
Melb'rne	21	70	c
Mexico C	23	73	s
Miami	31	88	s
Milan	19	66	s
Montreal	3	37	X
Moscow	-4	25	sn
Munich	5	41	c
N Delhi	26	79	s
N York	14	57	r
Nairobi	25	77	c
Naples	19	66	c
Nice	20	68	s
Oslo	3	37	f
Paris	11	52	c
Peking	19	66	s
Perth	21	70	f
Prague	3	37	c
Reykjavik	5	41	f
Rhodes	19	66	s
Rio de J	23	73	f
Riyadh	31	88	s
Rome	19	66	c
S Fr'sco	16	61	f
Salzburg	5	41	r
Santiago	18	64	s
Seoul	12	54	s
Sing'por	23	73	t
St'kholm	0	32	c
Strasb'rg	9	48	f
Sydney	27	81	s
Tangier	23	73	f
Tel Aviv	22	72	r
Tenerife	26	79	s
Tokyo	18	64	s
Toronto	5	41	c
Tunis	23	73	s
Vanc'ver	6	43	s
Venice	15	59	f
Vienna	7	45	r
Warsaw	5	41	r
Wash'ton	16	61	d
Wel'ngton	12	54	c
Zurich	5	41	c

Temperatures at midday local time X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: lows D, E and F will amalgamate in the mid-Atlantic and slowly fill. High N will slip southeast and intensify as lows X and M drift slowly east and fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	10:09	6.42	10:51	6.86
Aberdeen	10:33	3.85	10:40	3.96
Avonmouth	3:36	11.15	4.08	11.89
Belfast	7:54	3.08	8:08	3.27
Cardiff	3:21	10.39	3.53	10.85
Devonport	2:27	4.72	2:44	4.89
Dover	7:48	5.99	8:37	6.00
Dublin	8:40	3.85	8.46	4.05
Falmouth	1:44	4.32	2:07	4.72
Glasgow	8:59	4.20	9:39	4.31
Harwich	8.06	3.58	8:57	3.77
Holyhead	7.24	4.92	7:32	5.25
Hull	2:37	6.54	3:37	6.64
Ilfracombe	2:28	8.01	2:58	8.52
King's Lynn	2:35	5.83	3:16	5.76
Leith	11.35	5.00	11:54	5.11
Liverpool	8:00	8.23	8:20	8.73
Lowestoft	5:49	2.36	6:49	2.36
Margate	8:38	4.33	9:26	4.57
Milford Haven	2:58	5.87	3:21	6.27
Newquay	1:43	5.75	2:07	6.07
Oban	3:11	3.14	3:15	3.64
Penzance	1.24	4.58	1:46	4.89
Portland	3.21	1.65	3:36	1.76
Portsmouth	8:08	4.37	8:33	4.29
Shoreham	8:08	5.56	8:36	5.56
Southampton	7:38	4.23	8:04	4.14
Swansea	2:53	8.08	3:24	8.59
Tees	–	–	0:46	4.78
W'ton-on-Nze	8:10	3.79	8:57	4.04

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.57 am
Sun sets: 4.31 pm
Moon sets 2.29 am
Moon rises 2.52 pm
Full Moon November 7

London 4.31 pm to 6.59 am
Bristol 4.41 pm to 7 08 am
Edinburgh 4.29 pm to 7.25 am
Manchester 4.33 pm to 7 19 am
Penzance 4.56 pm to 7 16 am

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